

PROCEEDINGS OF
72^d NATIONAL
CONVENTION *of the*
AMERICAN
LEGION



Indianapolis, Indiana

August 28-30, 1990

JANUARY 9, 1991.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Washington DC, January 8, 1991

Honorable THOMAS S. FOLEY
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

In compliance with current public law we herewith transmit for printing as a House document a financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of our 72d National Convention, and a report on our organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention.

Sincerely,

E. PHILIP RIGGIN
Director, National Legislative Commission

(II)

Contents

National Conventions and Officers of The American Legion, 1919-1990	Page VII
---	-------------

TUESDAY SESSION—AUGUST 28, 1989

Call to order	1
Invocation	1
Team 3-Million Celebration	2
Welcomes:	
Hon. Evan Bayh, Governor of Indiana	4
Hon. William H. Hudnut III, Mayor of Indianapolis	6
Department Commander, Donald R. Conn	8
Gilbert Sheeks, President, National Convention Corporation of America	8
Greetings: Betty Calder, National President, American Legion Auxiliary	10
Report, National Commander Miles S. Epling	10
Presentations:	
Plaque to City of Baltimore, Maryland	14
Plaque to Dorothy S. Hill, Director, Post No. 156 American Legion Band	18
Addresses:	
Hon. Henry L. Hyde, U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois	21
Warren Hutchins, Veterans' Affairs Director, Adolf Coors Corporation	24
Reports:	
Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs	24
Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules	25
Convention Committee on Americanism	26
Presentations:	
National Youth Champions	37
William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy	39
Greetings, Hon. Edward J. Derwinski, Secretary of Veterans Affairs	40
Report, Convention Committee on Children and Youth	43
Greetings:	
Society of American Legion Founders	49
R.R. Cassells, President, ANAVICUS	50
Fred Williams, President, Royal Canadian Legion	52
Lt. Gen. Chu Chi-Yuan, Vice Chairman, Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China	54
General Joon-Yeol So, President, Korean Veterans Association	56
Reports:	
Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs (Section II)	57
Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs (Section III)	59

WEDNESDAY SESSION—AUGUST 29, 1990

Call to order	61
Invocation	61
Address: John D. Sturdivant, President, American Federation of Government Employees	62
Presentation, Employer of Year Awards	66
Report, Convention Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference and Other Economic Matters	67
Greetings:	
Charles E. Yeager, Brigadier General, USAF (retired)	82
Joseph McAtee, Sheriff, Marion County, Indiana	83
Presentation, Distinguished Service Award	83

Addresses:	Page
Diane Carlson Evans, R.N., Vietnam Women's Memorial.....	87
Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (retired), Women In Military Service.....	89
John P. "Jake" Comer, PNC, Korean War Memorial Advisory Committee	91
Richard Riley, National Rifle Association.....	93
Constance Berry Newman, Director, Office of Personnel Management	95
Robert Worrell, Commander, Sons of the American Legion	98
Address: J. Danforth Quayle, Vice President of the United States	99
Report, Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	103
Address, Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, USN (retired)	135
Reports:	
Convention Committee on Finance.....	139
Convention Committee on Foreign Relations.....	140
Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments	158

THURSDAY SESSION—AUGUST 30, 1990

Call to order	163
Invocation	163
Address, Richard C. Lugar, U.S. Senator, Indiana	164
Report, Convention Committee on National Security	168
Address, General Colin L. Powell, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.....	172
Reports by National Commanders.....	176
Presentations:	
Fourth Estate Award.....	198
Excellence in Journalism	200
Plaque and Colors to Outgoing National Commander.....	202
Election of National Commander	205
Address, Robert "Bob" Turner, National Commander	206
Election of National Vice Commanders	209
Greetings, Mrs. Ruby Paul, President, American Legion Auxiliary.....	210
Benediction, Rev. F. Robert Davidson, National Chaplain	212

APPENDIX

Annual Awards	214
Financial Report	216

THE AMERICAN LEGION 72D ANNUAL REPORT

Foreword, National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle	232
Excerpts from the Constitution of The American Legion	233
National Executive Committee	235
Reports of National Vice Commanders:	
Vincent E. Blank, Iowa	236
Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire.....	237
Andrew J. Cooper, Alabama	238
Gerald Goetzinger, South Dakota	239
Vinton R. Guy, Colorado.....	240
Reports:	
National Chaplain.....	242
National Historian.....	243
National Judge Advocate.....	243
Administrative Services.....	255
Library and Museum.....	256
Americanism Commission.....	257
Counter-Subversive Activities Committee.....	261
Education Committee	261
Commission on Children and Youth	263
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.	270
Convention Commission.....	272
Economic Commission.....	273
Employment Committee	275
Veterans Preference Committee	276
Finance Commission.....	278
Emblem Committee	279
American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee.....	280

	Page
Foreign Relations Commission	282
Internal Affairs Commission	295
Membership and Post Activities Committee.....	297
Legislative Commission.....	302
National Security Commission.....	307
Aerospace Committee.....	312
Defense Civil Preparedness Committee	312
Law and Order Committee.....	313
Merchant Marine Committee	314
Military Affairs Committee.....	314
National Security Council	318
Naval Affairs Committee.....	319
Public Relations Commission.....	320
American Legion Magazine Commission.....	321
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission	322
Report of the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary	346

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, 1919 to 1990

NOTE.—In the following list is should be noted that the terms of each group of officers expire with that particular convention under which they are listed

* indicates deceased.

HONORARY COMMANDERS

General John J. Pershing*

Marshall Ferdinand Foch*

PARIS CAUCUS

Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania. (Voted title of past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention.)

Permanent Chairman: Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri. Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1926 National Convention.)

Chairman Pro Tempore: Thomas W. Miller*, Delaware. Noted title of Past National Commander at the 1968 National Convention.)

Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania. At the Paris Caucus an Executive Committee was elected to complete arrangements, the chairman and secretary of which were:

Chairman: Milton J. Foreman*, Illinois. Noted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention.)

Secretary: George A. White*, Oregon.

ST. LOUIS CAUCUS

St. Louis, Missouri, May 8 to 10, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.*, New York. Voted title of Past National Commander at 31st Annual National Convention.)

Permanent Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley*, Texas.

Vice Chairman: John J. Sullivan, Washington; Fred Humphrey*, New Mexico; P.C. Calhoun*, Connecticut. Voted Titles of Past National Vice Commanders at 1933 National Convention.)

Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania.

Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles*, Colorado. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention.)

FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 10 to 12, 1919

Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley*, Texas. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1919 National Convention.)

Vice Chairman: Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri.

Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania.

Treasurer: Gasper G. Bacon*, Massachusetts.

Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles*, Colorado.

SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 27 to 29, 1920

Commander: Franklin D'Olier*, Pennsylvania.

Vice Commanders: James O'Brien*, California; Allen Tukey*, Nebraska; Joyce S. Lewis*, Minnesota; Alden B. Chambers, Massachusetts; William Follett*, Oregon.

Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Chaplain: Rev. Francis A. Kelly*, New York.

THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri, October 31 to November 2, 1921

Commander: Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr.*, Ohio (killed June 9), succeeded by John G. Emery*, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: John G. Emery*, Michigan; Thomas Goldingay*, New Jersey; Claudius G. Pendill*, Wisconsin; James G. Schrugham*, Nevada; E. Jackson Winslet*, Alabama.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. John W. Inzer*, Tennessee.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16 to 20, 1922

Commander: Hanford MacNider*, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: H. Nelson Jackson*, Vermont; George L. Berry*, Tennessee; Raymond O. Brackett*, Massachusetts; Charles H. Kindrick, California; John A. McCormick*, Colorado.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Earl A. Blackman*,
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, California, October 16 to 19, 1923

Commander: Alvin Owsley*, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Edward J. Barrett*, Wisconsin; Watson B. Miller*, District of Columbia; E. Erle Cocke, Sr.*, Georgia; Robert O. Blood*, New Hampshire; Chiles P. Plummer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. William F. O'Connor*, Ohio.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15 to 19, 1924

Commander: John R. Quinn*, California.
Vice Commanders: Lester Albert*, Idaho; Celora M. Stoddard*, Arizona; William B. Healey*, Pennsylvania; F. Ryan Duffy*, Wisconsin; Dr. I. Thurman Mann*, North Carolina.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Ezra Clemens*, Minnesota.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska, October 5 to 9, 1925

Commander: James A. Drain*, Washington.

Vice Commanders: Frank H. McFarland*, Eugene P. Armstrong*, Connecticut; A.L. Perry*, Panama; Payton H. Hoge, Jr.*, Kentucky; William Stern*, North Dakota.

Adjutant: Russell G. Creviston*, Indiana (resigned), succeeded by James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Joseph M. Lonergan*, Illinois.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 11 to 15, 1926

Commander: John R. McQuizz*, Ohio.

Vice Commanders: Joseph Y. Cheney*, Florida; Hughes B. Davis*, Oklahoma; Vincent A. Carroll*, Pennsylvania; Raymond B. Littlefield*, Rhode Island; James A. Howell*, Utah.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. William E. Patrick*, California.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York City, New York, October 18, 1927

Paris, France, September 19 to 22, 1927

Commander: Howard P. Savage*, Illinois.

Vice Commanders: C. Thomas Busha, Jr.*, Montana; Stafford King*, Minnesota; John G. Sims, Tennessee; John E. Curtiss*, Nebraska; John G. Towne*, Maine.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Joseph L.N. Wolfe*, Pennsylvania.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

10th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, October 8 to 11, 1928

Commander: Edward E. Spafford*, New York.

Vice Commanders: John T. Rafts, Washington; Ralph T. O'Neil*, Kansas; Paul R. Younts*, North Carolina; Dan Spurlock*, Louisiana; John M. Henry*, Minnesota.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Chaplain: Rev. Gill Robb Wilson*, New Jersey.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois.

11th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky, September 30 to October 2, 1929

Commander: Paul V. McNutt*, Indiana.

Vice Commanders: Lawrence E. McGann, Jr.*, Illinois; George W. Malone*, Nevada; Edward L. White*, Connecticut; Miller C. Foster, South Carolina; Walton D. Hood*, Texas.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Chaplain: Rabbi Lee J. Levinger*, Ohio.

Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois.

12th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, October 6 to 9, 1930

Commander: O.L. Bodenhammer*, Arkansas.

Vice Commanders: Milt D. Campbell*, Ohio; John J. Dugan*, Delaware; Morton M. David*, Colorado; Frank Schoble, Jr.*, Pennsylvania; William M. Brewer*, Michigan.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Chaplain: Rev. George K. Kettell*, D.D., New York.

Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.

Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois.

13th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Detroit, Michigan, September 21 to 24, 1931

Commander: Ralph T. O'Neil*, Kansas.

Vice Commanders: Bert S. Hyland*, Vermont; Roland B. Howell*, Louisiana; Harry B. Henderson, Jr.*, Wyoming; Dr. James A. Duff, West Virginia; Dr. Neal D. Williams*, Missouri.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Chaplain: Rev. Joseph N. Barnett, Wisconsin.

Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois.

14th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, September 12 to 15, 1932

Commander: Henry L. Stevens, Jr.*, North Carolina.

Vice Commanders: Richard F. Paul*, Massachusetts; Forest G. Cooper*, Mississippi; Roy L. Cook*, New Mexico; Frank N. Brooks*, Washington; Harold L. Plummer, Wisconsin.

Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.

Chaplain: Rev. H.A. Darche*, Illinois.

Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana.

15th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, October 2 to 5, 1933

Commander: Louis Johnson*, West Virginia.

Vice Commanders: Russell Meadows*, Arizona; Robert D. Flory*, Nebraska; William Easterwood*, Texas; John J. Maloney*, Maine; Chas. A. Mills*, Florida.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Irvin Q. Wood*, Idaho.

Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.

Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts* (died January 22, 1933), succeeded by Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana.

16th, NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 22 to 25, 1934

Commander: Edward A. Hayes*, Illinois.

Vice Commanders: Charles R. Mabey*, Utah; Robert L. Gordon, Arkansas; Miguel Munoz*, Puerto Rico; Ed W. Carruth*, Kansas; Charles L. Woolley*, Rhode Island.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. White*, Massachusetts.

Historian: Thomas M. Owens, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana.

17th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri, September 23 to 26, 1935

Commander: Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.*, California.

Vice Commanders: Daniel J. Doherty*, Massachusetts; Harold J. Warner*, Oregon; John K. Kennelly*, North Dakota; Milo J. Warner*, Ohio; Quimby Melton*, Georgia.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Park W. Huntington*, Delaware.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: James A. Drain*, Washington.

Judge Advocate: James A. Drain*, Washington.

18th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 21 to 24, 1936

Commander: Ray Murphy*, Iowa.

Vice Commanders: Raymond F. Gates*, Connecticut; Dr. W.E. Whitlock*, Florida; Oscar W. Worthwine, Idaho; Dr. F. Whitney Godwin, Virginia; Lewis R. Probst*, Wyoming.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Thomas D. Kennedy*, Missouri.

Historian: Thomas D. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

19th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, September 20 to 23, 1937

Commander: Harry W. Colmery*, Kansas.

Vice Commanders: Salvatore Capodice*, California; Leo A. Temmey*, South Dakota; Leonard Sisk*, Tennessee; J. Fred Johnson, Jr.*, Alabama; Jack Crowley*, Vermont.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Bryan H. Keathley*, Texas.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

20th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, September 19 to 22, 1938

Commander: Daniel J. Doherty*, Massachusetts.

Vice Commanders: Drury M. Phillips*, Texas; Phil Conley*, West Virginia; Harry M. Johnson*, Montana; James F. Daniel, Jr.*, South Carolina; James R. Mahaffey*, Hawaii.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Frank J. Lawler*, Illinois.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

21st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 25 to 28, 1939

Commander: Stephen F. Chadwick*, Washington.

Vice Commanders: Edward J. Quinn*, Maine; Charles W. Crush, Virginia; Earl T. Ross*, Nevada; James T. Crawley*, Mississippi; Henry C. Oakey*, Wisconsin.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Jerome L. Fritsche*, Nebraska.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

22d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, September 23 to 26, 1940

Commander: Raymond J. Kelly, Michigan.

Vice Commanders: Leo E. Ray*, New Hampshire; Charles Q. Kelly*, Arkansas; Matthew J. Murphy*, Illinois; James B. Fitzgerald*, Maryland; H. Elwyn Davis, Colorado.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick N. McDermott*, Iowa.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

23d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15 to 18, 1941

Commander: Milo J. Warner*, Ohio.

Vice Commanders: Erwin A. Froyd, Wyoming; James L. McCrory*, Nebraska; Harold P. Redden*, Massachusetts; Edward R. Stirling*, Pennsylvania; Alice S. Legendre*, Louisiana.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Brigadier William G. Gilks, Texas.

Historian: Thomas M. Owens, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

24th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri, September 19 to 21, 1942

Commander: Lynn U. Stambaugh*, North Dakota.

Vice Commanders: W.C. Sawyer*, Arizona; DeLacy Allen*, Georgia; Charles E. Booth*, West Virginia; V.M. Armstrong*, Indiana; John F. Sullivan*, Vermont.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.

Chaplain: Rev. Frederick J. Halloran*, New Jersey.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

25th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska, September 21 to 23, 1943

Commander: Roane Waring*, Tennessee.

Vice Commanders: John T. Batten*, Alabama; Arthur J. Connell*, Connecticut; Fred G. Fraser*, District of Columbia; Herman H. Lark*, Missouri; Jefferson Davis Atwood*, New Mexico.

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas* (died July 25), succeeded by Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan, Acting Adjutant.

Chaplain: Rev. Paul De Forrest Mortimore*, Idaho.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

26th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 18 to 20, 1944

Commander: Warren H. Atherton*, California.

Vice Commanders: Martin V. Coffey*, Ohio; M.E. Littlefield*, Utah; Robert "LeRoy" McMillan*, North Carolina; Edward Al Mulrooney, Delaware; Hector G. Staples*, Maine.

Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.

Chaplain: Rev. Paul F. McManus*, Kansas.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

27th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, November 18 to 21, 1945

Commander: Edward N. Scheiberling*, New York.

Vice Commanders: Bascom F. Jones*, Tennessee; Frank E. McCuffrey, Rhode Island; Dan M. McDade*, Oregon; Ray S. Plerson*, Kansas; William P. Shadoan*, Kentucky.

Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.

Chaplain: Rev. DeWitt C. Mallory*, Florida.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

28th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946

Commander: John Stelle*, Illinois.

Vice Commanders: R. Graham Huntington*, New Jersey; Fred LaBoon, Oklahoma; Sam L. Latimer, Jr.*, South Carolina; H. Dudley Swim*, Idaho; Jeremiah Twomey*, Massachusetts.

Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.

Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith*, Iowa.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

29th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, August 28 to 31, 1947

Commander: Paul H. Griffith*, Pennsylvania.

Vice Commanders: Joseph W. Brown*, New Hampshire; Martin B. Buckner, Michigan; Richard C. Cadwallader, Louisiana; Earnest H. Derishian, Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey, California.

Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.

Chaplain: Rev. Arthur L. Rustad*, Minnesota.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

30th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 18 to 20, 1948

Commander: James F. O'Neill*, New Hampshire.

Vice Commanders: L.W. Barns, South Dakota; Albert A. Cree*, Vermont; Richard B. Ott, Washington; Myron R. Renick, West Virginia; Joe W. White, Georgia.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Father Frank L. Harrington*, Montana.

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

31st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 29 to September 1, 1949

Commander: Perry Brown, Texas.

Vice Commanders: James Lane, Alabama; Leonard W. Moody, Arkansas; James Annin; Walter E. Alessandrini*, Pennsylvania.

Adjutant: Harry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Grice*, California.

Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

32d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, October 9 to 12, 1950

Commander: George N. Craig, Indiana.

Vice Commanders: Milton G. Boock, Minnesota; David H. Fleisher*, Missouri; Frank E. Lowe, Maine; J.E. Martie, Nevada; Dr. D.R. Perry*, North Carolina.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Edward J. Corney*, O.S.A., Massachusetts.

Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

33d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 15 to 18, 1951

Commander: Earl Cocke, Jr., Georgia.

Vice Commanders: Joe Adams*, Florida; Herbert J. Jacobi*, District of Columbia;

Felix Pogliano*, Colorado; Lewis K. Gough*, California; Fred C. Bramlage,

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rabbi David Lalkowitz, Louisiana.

Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

34th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, August 25 to 28, 1952

Commander: Donald B. Wilson, West Via.

Vice Commanders: Adolph F. Bremer, Minnesota; Frank R. Kelley, Massachusetts;

Thomas E. Paradine*, New York; Oscar B. Rohiff*, Wyoming; Audrey H. Ward*, South Carolina.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Olaf G. Birkeland*, Wisconsin.

Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

35th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri, August 31 to September 3, 1953

Commander: Lewis K. Gough*, California.

Vice Commanders: William R. Bourdon*, Arizona; Lyon W. Brandon*, Mississippi;

Wilbur C. Daniel*, Virginia; Harry V. Groome*, New Jersey; J. Addington Wagner*, Michigan.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Father John E. Duff*, Ohio.

Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

36th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, DC, August 30 to September 2, 1954

Commander: Arthur J. Connell*, Connecticut.

Vice Commanders: John A. High*, New Hampshire; Dr. Deward H. Roed*, New

Mexico; Truman C. Wold, North Dakota; Thomas W. Bird*, North Carolina.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Dr. Tom B. Clark*, Oklahoma.

Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

37th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 10 to 13, 1955

Commander: Seaborn P. Collins, New Mexico.

Vice Commander: Leonard L. Jackson*, Louisiana; Patrick H. Mangan, Jr., Vermont; Howard C. Kingdom*, Ohio; Dr. Carl J. Rees*, Delaware; Robert L. Shelby, Utah.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.

Chaplain: Rev. Albert J. Hoffmann*, Iowa.

Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

38th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, September 3 to 6, 1956

Commander: J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.

Vice Commanders: Guy Stone*, Georgia; John G. Van Horn*, Alaska; L. Everett Page, Texas; Gilman H. Stordock*, Wisconsin; James V. Day*, Maine* (resigned Jan. 1, 1956), succeeded by William J. Holliman, District of Columbia.

Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska* (resigned), succeeded by E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Joseph MacCarroll*, New Jersey.

Historian: Monte T. Fairey*, South Carolina.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

39th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlantic City, New Jersey, September 16 to 19, 1957

Commander: W.C. "Dan" Daniel*, Virginia.

Vice Commanders: Gaylor M. Brown*, Iowa; George T. Lewis, Jr., Tennessee; Carl R. Moser*, Oregon; John P. Stay, Pennsylvania; J. Edward Walter*, Maryland.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Bernard W. Gerdon*, Indiana.

Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

40th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 1 to 4, 1958

Commander: John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois.

Vice Commanders: William A. Cottrell*, Territory of Hawaii; Ramon R. Guas, Puerto Rico; Harry W. Miller*, West Virginia; Leo A. Lemos, Rhode Island; Isador Levin*, Indiana.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Feltham S. James*, South Carolina.

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey.

Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 24 to 27, 1959

Commander: Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma.

Vice Commanders: C.D. DeLoach, District of Columbia; John W. Collins, Pennsylvania; James B. Kerrigan*, Missouri; Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana; James C. Bangs*, Idaho.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Twiss, Massachusetts.

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey.

Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

42d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, October 15 to 20, 1960

Commander: Martin B. McKneally, New York.

Vice Commanders: William A. Brennan, Jr., Indiana; A. Layman Harman, South Carolina; Nate V. Keller*, Minnesota; Irvn Frank Gianotti*, Minnesota (appointed September 14, 1960 to fill the vacancy created July 25 by the death of Nate V. Keller); Willard W. Brandt, North Dakota; Charles C. McGonegal*, California; Corydon T. Hill*, California (appointed May 4, 1960 to fill the vacancy created on January 27, by the death of Charles McGonegal).

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, D.H.L., Texas.

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey.

Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

43d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado, September 9 to 14, 1961

Commander: William R. Burke, California.

Vice Commanders: George K. Walker, Massachusetts; James M. Wagonseller, Ohio; Vincent J. Maxheim*, Iowa; Dr. Harry H. Kretzler*, Washington; R.C.-Godwin*, North Carolina.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: The Reverend William H. Moss*, Tennessee.

Historian: Glenn B. Hoover*, Iowa.

Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

44th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nevada, October 5 to 11, 1962

Commander: Charles L. Bacon, Missouri.

Vice Commanders: Walter W. Barnard*, Montana; Edward T. Hoak, Pennsylvania; Wilson H. Morsison, Michigan; J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma; Edward Wysocki, New Jersey.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. Father Robert G. Keating*, Connecticut.

Historian: Earl David Young*, Colorado.

Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

45th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, September 6 to 12, 1963

Commander: James E. Powers, Georgia.

Vice Commanders: Harold D. Beaton, District of Columbia; James D. Doon*, New Hampshire; Claude D. Hamilton*, South Dakota; Paschal C. Reese*, Florida; Victor F. Whittlesea*, Nevada.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rabbi Albert M. Shulman, Indiana.

Historian: H. Armand de Masi*, Italy.

Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

46th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dallas, Texas, September 22 to 24, 1964

Commander: Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota.

Vice Commanders: Earl D. Franklin, Jr., Colorado; Emilio S. Iglesias*, Vermont; Garland D. Murphy Jr., M.D., Arkansas; George Emory Sipple*, Wisconsin; Harry Wright*, Mexico.

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.

Chaplain: Rev. John J. Howard*, Virginia.

Historian: H. Armand de Masi*, Italy.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

47th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, August 24 to 26, 1965

Commander: Donald E. Johnson, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: David Aronberg*, Kentucky; Herbert D. Black*, South Carolina;
Ward W. Husted*, Wyoming; Edward H. Lynch, Jr., Connecticut; Joseph Paul*,
Michigan.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Dummet, Louisiana.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

48th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, DC, August 30 to September 1, 1966

Commander: L. Eldon James, Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Dr. A.R. Chopping*, Louisiana; William E. Galbraith, Nebraska;
Robert O. Phillips*, Philippines; Walter J. Rogers, Maine; Soleng Tom, Arizona.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: The Rev. Alfred C. Thompson, New York.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

49th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, August 29 to 31, 1967

Commander: John E. Davis, North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: Robert M. Fritz, Indiana; Lewis W. Emerich, Texas; Harry V.
Klein, Jr., Pennsylvania; Frank L. Orfanello*, Massachusetts; James A. Tad-
lock*, New Mexico.
Adjutant: Earnest N. Schmit, North Dakota.
Chaplain: The Rev. Fr. Anthony J. O'Driscoll*, New York.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

50th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, September 6 to 12, 1968

Commander: William E. Galbraith, Nebraska.
Vice Commanders: Coleman Nolen, Oklahoma; Louis R.H. Malo, Rhode Island;
Roscoe D. Curtiss, Tennessee; Dr. Edwin L. Petersen, Utah; Marvin W. Roth,
Wisconsin.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Edward P. Nolan, Pennsylvania.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

51st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Georgia, August 22 to 28, 1969

Commander: William C. Doyle*, New Jersey.
Vice Commanders: C. Russell Huber, Arkansas; John A. Jones*, West Virginia;
Howard E. Lohman*, Minnesota; Lewis E. McCray, Alabama; Maurice R. Pari-
sien*, Maine.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. C.J. Olander, Mississippi.

Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

52d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, August 22 to September 3, 1970

Commander: J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: Kent T. Lundgren*, Michigan; Roland D. Marble, Mississippi;
Raymond F. Mudge, New Hampshire; Earl R. Norgard, Oregon; Gilberto M.
Font, Puerto Rico.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Father William D. Curtis, Minnesota.
Historian: John A. May*, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

53d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, August 27 to September 2, 1971

Commander: Alfred P. Chamie, California.
Vice Commanders: Claude Carpenter, Arkansas; May Hanson, Idaho; Robert E.L.
Eaton, Maryland; Gabriel T. Olga, Massachusetts; John E. Gilbert, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Milton B. Faust*, North Carolina.
Historian: Howard M. Swinney*, Kentucky.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

54th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 22 to 24, 1972

Commander: John H. Geiger, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Howard W. Fann, Kentucky; Arthur M. MacCarthy, Florida; Roy
Sweet, Vermont; Harry G. Wiles, Kansas; Wallace C.S. Young, Hawaii.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul J. Schwaab, Nebraska.
Historian: G. Greer McCallister, Ohio.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

55th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, August 21, 1973

Commander: Joe L. Matthews, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Tim T. Craig, North Carolina; Sam Gray*, California; Donald L.
Gruenbaum, Ohio; Albert J. Moeller, New Jersey; Raymond J. Novak, South
Dakota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. L.O. Fitzpatrick, Iowa.
Historian: Mrs. Loretta O. Phillips, California.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

56th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, August 20 to 22, 1974

Commander: Robert E.L. Eaton, Maryland.
Vice Commanders: John N. Roberto, Connecticut; Frank C. Brooks*, Washington;
Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana; Memck W. Swords, Louisiana; N.E. Brown*, South
Carolina.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry, Missouri.

Historian: R. Robert Filter, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

57th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 19 to 21, 1975

Commander: James M. Wagonseller, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Boyd H. Clemens, North Dakota; Jack W. Flynt, Texas; Jay E. Harville, Tennessee; Donald H. Jeffrey, Pennsylvania; William A. Lindsay, Montana.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Harvey T. Goodling*, Oregon.
Historian: Nolie C. Deas, Sr., Florida.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

58th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington, August 24 to 26, 1976

Commander: Harry G. Wiles, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: John W. Adams, Jr., Kentucky; Fred W. Anderson, Jr., Nevada; Leo F. Malloy, Massachusetts; Thomas W. Miller, Arkansas; James F. Walker, Minnesota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Claude E. Smithmier, Georgia.
Historian: Mrs. Dorothy Crimes, Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

59th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado, August 23 to 25, 1977

Commander: William J. Rogers, Maine.
Vice Commanders: Lloyd J. Berken, Wisconsin; Thomas B. Coll, District of Columbia; Robert B. Grauberger, Colorado; Frank A. Kelly, Georgia; Wilbur Walker, Virginia.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Fr. James C. Tuxbury, North Dakota.
Historian: Alton H. Carpenter, New York.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

60th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 22 to 24, 1978

Commander: Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana.
Vice Commanders: Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota; Roger A. Munson, Ohio; John J. O'Connell*, Rhode Island; Chester Phillips, West Virginia; Irving B. Solmer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Walter D. Power, Maryland.
Historian: Arnold J. Stockstad*, North Dakota.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

61st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, August 21 to 23, 1979

Commander: Jack M. Carey, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: L. Max Connolly, Arizona; Alvin F. Grauerholz, Kansas; Joseph P. Ward, New Jersey; John H. Weinand, Jr., Alabama; Nathan M. Wolfe, South Carolina.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.

Chaplain: R. Drew Wolcott*, Mexico.
Historian: Harry H. Kretzler, M.D., Washington.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

62d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, August 19 to 21, 1980

Commander: Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: G.Y. Falls, New Mexico; Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin; Bob Logan, Arkansas; Max E. Robinson, North Carolina; Lawrence R. Spaulding, New Hampshire.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Karl E. Kniseley, California.
Historian: Phillip Haddad, Oklahoma.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

63d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, September 1 to 3, 1981

Commander: Michale J. Kogutek, New York.
Vice Commanders: Ralph M. Godwin*, Mississippi; Keigh H. Gwilliam, Utah, Matthew W. Jamieson, Michigan; Robert W. Lowery, Nebraska; Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Chaplain: Rev. George S. Macres, Minnesota.
Historian: Neal S. Sundeen, Arizona.
Sergeant-at-Arms: R.M. "Sonny" Singleton, Jr., South Carolina.

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 24 to 26, 1982

Commander: Jack W. Flynt, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Frank T. Markovich, Missouri; Dan C. McDonough, Alaska; Percy C. Miller, Tennessee; Melvin "Doc" Simon, Vermont; David A. Wade, Maryland.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. George R.M. Rumney, Virginia.
Historian: Bernard J. Chisholm, Minnesota.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Herbert W. Odell, Texas.

65th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington, August 23 to 25, 1983

Commander: Al Keller, Jr., Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Robert C. Gabrielson, South Dakota; Margaret M. Malone, New Jersey; H. Melvin Napier, Indiana; Jack C. Plato, Oregon; Leo O. Walker, Oklahoma.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. John D. Kempf, Ohio.
Historian: James W. Conway, Massachusetts.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary L. Walling, Illinois.

66th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah, September 3 to 4, 1984

Commander: Keith Kreul, Wisconsin.

Vice Commanders: J. Leslie Brown Jr., Kentucky; Robert Gonzalez, Puerto Rico; Charles R. Green*, Ohio; Robert W. Groccia, Massachusetts; John M. Lockhart, Hawaii.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: James Clay McKee, Utah.

Historian: Herberta T. Stark, New Hampshire.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Kenneth Gassman, Wisconsin.

67th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26 to 28, 1985

Commander: Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland.

Vice Commanders: Robert S. Turner, Georgia; Harold E. Collett, Idaho; Ronald D. Birk, Kansas; Stewart Kunde, Minnesota; Stephen J. Mikosky, Pennsylvania.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr., New York.

Historian: Roy B. Mahoney, Florida.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Charles A. St. Clair, Maryland.

68th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2 to 4, 1986

Commander: Dale L. Renaud, Iowa.

Vice Commanders: Bernard Black, South Carolina; Norman Conn, California; Vito M. DeFlipp, Maine; Miles S. Epling, West Virginia; H.T. Gierke, North Dakota.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Dr. Gordon L. Patterson, Nebraska.

Historian: Ethel M. Matuschka, Wisconsin.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Peter G. Hass, Iowa.

69th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, August 25 to 27, 1987

Commander: James P. Dean, Mississippi.

Vice Commanders: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana; Doris R. Gross, Washington; Donald E. Neil, Delaware; Allen L. Titus, Indiana; Ervin F. Van Dyke, Wisconsin.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Arthur J. Jakobiak, New Mexico.

Historian: J. Ruffin Apperson, Virginia.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Hubert V. Culver, Mississippi.

70th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky, September 6 to 8, 1988

Commander: John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts.

Vice Commanders: Neale V. Cabral, Connecticut; Joe Frank, Jr., Missouri; W.P. "Bill" Peterson, Montana; Paul F. Phifer, Jr., Virginia; Leon Reed, Arkansas.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Rev. Jerry Salvesson, Minnesota.

Historian: Edward F. Brennan, Illinois.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Timothy A. Ryan, Massachusetts.

71st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore, Maryland, September 5 to 7, 1989

Commander: H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, North Dakota.

Vice Commanders: Thomas L. Gabel, Ohio; Harvey Holcomb, Texas; Archie Pozzi, Jr., Nevada; Ray G. Smith, Sr., North Carolina; John P. Tipping, New York.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Reverend F. Robert Davidson, Michigan.

Historian: Richard A. Stevens, Louisiana.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Paul R. Evenson, South Dakota.

72d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28 to 30, 1990

Commander: Miles S. Epling, West Virginia.

Vice Commanders: Vincent E. Blank, Iowa; Joseph E. Caoette, New Hampshire; Andrew J. Cooper, Alabama; Gerald Goetzinger, South Dakota; Vinton R. Guy, Colorado.

Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Chaplain: Lynn S. Kearsley, Idaho.

Historian: C. Carl Pilgrim, South Carolina.

Sergeant-at-Arms: William E. Burkett, West Virginia.

(XXII)

PROCEEDINGS

of the

72nd Annual National Convention

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Tuesday, August 28, 1990

... At 9:00 A.M., the delegates assembled for the 72nd Annual National Convention and the following proceedings were had:

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion will now come to order.

... At this time the delegation was entertained by an audiovisual presentation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: My fellow Legionnaires and Distinguished Guests. On stage with me at this moment are the 58 Department Commanders of my year—what a beautiful display of colors. What a magnificent sight to behold. As we begin our first-ever National Convention in Indianapolis, I thank these men and women for their unending efforts in seeking a Constitutional Amendment to protect our Flag. I also thank them for taking The American Legion to another growing membership year. Let their dedication serve as an example of Legion commitment and resolve.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Delegates please rise.

The 1989 National Champion Color Guard, the Mason-Dixon Color Guard from Post 42 in Hagerstown, Maryland advance the Colors of the United States of America.

... The Mason-Dixon Color Guard from Post 42 in Hagerstown, Maryland advanced the colors, while the delegation stood in right hand salute.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, I present Ken Knowles of Indianapolis to sing the Star Spangled Banner.

... Ken Knowles, Carmel, Indiana, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, uncover and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

... The Delegation stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: For the Invocation, I would like to call on our National Chaplain, Lynn S. Kearsley of Idaho.

INVOCATION
Lynn S. Kearsley, Idaho
National Chaplain

Our Heavenly Father, with bowed heads we approach Thee this morning in the attitude of prayer. As recipients of Thy great love, we look to Thee this day for the blessings upon this 72nd Convention of The American Legion. We have assembled to be instructed and

encouraged in the work of The American Legion, and as we listen to the reports and talks of those who speak, may our minds and hearts be in tune with the wisdom that is spoken.

We recognized The hand in all the good things we enjoy in life, and pray at this time we might continue to be worthy of Thy constant blessings.

And now, Father, we ask a special blessing upon this troubled world where jealousy and hate and mistrust is prevalent among many nations. We remember our military forces now serving in the Middle East where hostile action has required their presence. We pray for their safety as they defend our interests there. May their spirits be lifted and their health maintained as they serve in that hot and arid country. Please protect them, Father, and may they be assured of our love and concern for them.

Likewise, we remember those who are being detained against their will that they, too, may have Thy protecting care and for those at home who keep the candles lighted in faith and hope of their loved ones' safe and hasty return. May peace and tranquility fill their hearts and minds. We pray for leaders of nations, all nations, but especially for our Commander in Chief, President Bush. May Thy influence and inspiration be with him and his advisors as he leads other nations in seeking a peaceful solution to this crisis. Touch the hearts of those leaders who have aggressively invaded the rights of others that they might be persuaded to return to their borders and live in peace and harmony with their neighbors.

May we as individuals be congenial and understanding and respectful of others that peace might dwell in our hearts, we ask this through Thy Holy Name, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Chaplain Kearsley, your words are an inspiration to all of us at these opening ceremonies. We are grateful for your contribution.

Sergeant-At-Arms, please light the Peace Candle.

... The Sergeant-At-Arms lit the peace Candle.

POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th National Convention in New Orleans call for designating a "POW/MIA Empty Chair" at all official meetings as a visible symbol of the thousands of Americans still missing in Southeast Asia and Korea.

Accordingly, at this time Chairman William Detweiler of the Foreign Relations Commission and Richard Pfaffinger, Member of the Special POW Committee will place the POW/MIA Flag on the empty chair.

A visible reminder for us all. We must continue to urge our government to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners in Southeast Asia or Korea, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full and complete accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor.

... Chairman William Detweiler and Richard Pfaffinger draped the Empty Chair with the POW/MIA Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, gentlemen.

PREAMBLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSTITUTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Fellow Legionnaires, please join me in reaffirming our commitment to the principles and ideals on which our great American Legion was founded, and our dedication to the important work for which we have come together, by reciting with me the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

... At this time, the Delegation stood and recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

TEAM 3-MILLION CELEBRATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, while the ideas so well stated in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution give us direction and pur-

pose, it is the more than 3-million men and women who call themselves Legionnaires that give us our strength. It is our members who make a difference in their communities.

As we start our Convention in Indianapolis, our membership total exceeds that of last year by more than 25,000. This accomplishment comes from the leadership of these 58 men and women behind me and the hard work and dedication of Legionnaires from across the nation.

The membership accomplishments of this year make me proud. On the National level, our membership has grown steadily the past six years. Yet, in many of our Departments, this is just a short period of time, as active membership campaigns continue to bring Legionnaires into active support of our community programs.

At this time I would like Paul Andrejewski, the Immediate Past Department Commander of Minnesota to join me on the lectern to assist with a special presentation.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: In Baltimore Maryland, Commander "Sparky" Gierke had the pleasure of presenting a trophy to the Department of Minnesota, the first Department to achieve 25 consecutive all-time high years. Today I have asked Commander Andrejewski to assist me with the presentation of a trophy to another Department who becomes the second member of this consecutive all-time high year family.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's have a great round of applause for the Department of Florida.

At this time would the Immediate Past Department Commander of Florida, Larry Sheets, the Department of Florida Membership Chairman Vincent Tubman and Department Adjutant Dyke Shannon come forward for the presentation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: This is what The American Legion is all about, 25 years of all-time high.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER LARRY SHEETS, Florida: It is an honor for me to accept this award on behalf of the more than 114,000 Legionnaires in Florida.

Our success was made possible through the dedicated efforts of our Membership Chairman, Department Vice Commanders District and Post Commanders, and many hours of hard work by Department Adjutant and staff.

Everyone's dedication to our motto made it possible to achieve our goal, the 25 consecutive year of all-time high membership. And Florida is proud to be able to walk the point. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Membership is what makes The American Legion continue to move forward. Today, we have two Departments in that special group of 25 consecutive years of all-time high membership. Other Departments are making giant strides in that direction, and you will see this group grow in the future.

From my experience with the Legion, I know that it takes dedication to our cause to achieve excellent recruiting goals. This morning it's a pleasure to recognize one Legionnaire with a great technique in attracting members. As a certified member of our Gold Brigade, this man added 215 Legionnaires to our roles last year.

It is fitting that our National Recruiter of the year is from No-Vel Post 159 in Venice, Florida.

Please welcome John J. Koval.

NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR JOHN J. KOVAL: My sincere thanks and appreciation to our National Commander Miles Epling, National Adjutant Robert Spanogle and to all of the Officers and Members of the National Organization for their honors that they bestowed on me today.

Also, a special thanks to my state, Florida, Commander Larry Sheets, Adjutant Dyke Shannon, and Membership Chairman Vince Tubman, for their assistance in helping me achieve this award.

The success of any program is basically three things: Long hours, hard work, and dedication, and dedication to The American Legion's programs and services to all our veterans and families and the children and youth organizations throughout the country.

My special thanks to my associates, and my dear friends who helped me attain the goals that I set while Post Commander of The American Legion No-Vel Post 159 in Venice, Florida, the beautiful little city on the Gulf.

Thank you very kindly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Membership Gold Brigade competition certainly helped The American Legion's strength in traditional recruiting results. As many of you know, it takes signing-up 50 new members to be certified for the Gold Brigade. Then for each 50 members signed up the recruiter's name is entered into the drawing for a new car. For the last few years that presentation has taken place on the Convention floor.

This year because of personal demands for our winner, I made the presentation of keys to a 1990 Ford Explorer Saturday during the opening of the National Convention Festival on the Mall.

For the record, let's have a round of applause for the winner of that car, Dan Karnes of Post 3, Department of Virginia.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, I think it is really fitting at this time as our Department Commander, and these great guys behind me leave, let's give them a big round of applause.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, we are home in Indianapolis. We are 3-million members strong and growing and we want to see our Flag protected.

As the Department Commanders who depart the stage, please give them a great one more round of applause, because I think they did an outstanding job this year.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to move forward with the business of this Convention. I now call on our National Adjutant, Mr. Robert W. Spanogle of the Department of Michigan, to issue the Call for Convention.

CONVENTION CALL

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROBERT W. SPANOGLE: read the Call for the 72nd National Convention of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I now declare the 72nd Annual Nation Convention of The American Legion to be regularly convened.

Our first guest is a man who became the youngest Governor in the United States when the voters of Indiana elected him into office in November, 1988.

This Governor earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Economics from Indiana University, and later, his Law Degree from the University of Virginia.

He began his political career as Indiana's Secretary of State and served in that position until his election of Governor.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's show our appreciation to the Governor of the great State of Indiana. Governor Evan Bayh.

THE HONORABLE EVAN BAYH Governor of Indiana

Commander Epling, Adjutant Spanogle, ladies and gentlemen. It's my very pleasant task to welcome all of you today to our State on behalf of five and a half million Hoosiers, and I am pleased to do so just as for 72 years we in Indiana have been very pleased to be known as the home of The American Legion.

Let me say simply that we at Indiana are very proud of The American Legion. We are proud of the good work that you do with Boy's State and Girl's State, at the Veterans' Home, Children's Home, and the countless charitable organizations that you assist annually across our state and across our country.

We are proud of the things for which you stand, love of country, faith in God, defenders of democracy.

And we at Indiana have always tried to demonstrate our gratitude for your service and your sacrifice and your pride in this Legion in very clear ways.

This year I was pleased to sign a bill opening up once again bonuses for Viet Nam area veterans to recognize the service which they performed on behalf of our nation in South-east Asia. One of the first things that we have done has been to remove the fee that in Indiana had existed for many years disabled veterans to have special license plates. I couldn't understand why that existed. As a matter of fact, we felt it was unconscionable, so we did away with that.

We then increased vocational rehabilitation funds to help those get back on their feet who have been injured in the line of duty. And we have included members of this Legion, veterans at the highest ranks of our administration, and I would like to call upon three today to stand and be recognized. I had the very pleasant responsibility last week of appointing a new Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs here in the State of Indiana. This gentleman is someone of whom I am very proud who has been the President and Past Commander at the Indiana Department, Dutch Boles. Why don't you stand up and be recognized this morning, Dutch. Dutch Boles.

I believe Thomas Hoagland and Don Ross are probably seated with the Indiana Delegation. We have appointed both of those gentlemen this past week to the Veterans Commission of the State of Indiana to give the Legion a clear voice in helping to direct the affairs of our state as they affect veterans across Indiana. We are very proud of them as well.

Now, let me say in conclusion three things: First, we in Indiana demonstrate our pride of veterans and of this organization, more than anything else, more than in the laws that we pass and executive actions that I have been pleased to take, in the way we live our lives and in the things that we believe.

We Hoosiers are proud of our country. We respect our Flag, and we honor those men and women who have defended both in the line of duty.

So let me say clearly and simply that if there are those who seek to desecrate our Flag, if there are those who seek to attack the United States of America, and if there are those who degrade or denigrate the Service men and women of our country, they better do it someplace other than the State of Indiana.

Let me also say that this morning as our Service men and women gather in the Persian Gulf, we are reminded once again that the price of democracy is eternal vigilance. A price very often measured in the lives of our loved ones lost. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the men and women who are on Active Service in the Gulf; their families and loved ones who wait for them at home. I could only hope as the Governor of our State that hostilities do not break out, but if they do, I hope we have the dedication and determination to allow those young men and women to finish the job we have sent them to do.

The highest honor we have in Indiana that can be bestowed upon someone is called the Sagamore of the Wabash which dates back many, many years, to the time when Indians inhabited our State. It is an award that by definition goes only to the bravest, the most dedicated and the special few.

I want this morning to recognize someone who has performed outstanding service on behalf of The American Legion and because of the Legion's importance to the State of Indiana, and in so doing performed outstanding service on behalf of the citizens of our State.

So I would like Commander Miles Epling to come forward to be inducted into the ranks of the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest honor that we in Indiana can convey.

In so doing we honor him and we honor this Legion.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, Governor, and trust me, I will cherish that honor that you have given me. But it's not to me. It's to The American Legion, because I think The American Legion does it all. We are very proud of our organization and we are very proud of the great State of Indiana for all you do to be our host here as we have our National Headquarters here in Indiana.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do for us.

What I would like to present to you, Governor, is a signed copy by myself, and by the author of the new American Legion Official History. We would like for you to put this in your office and let all people know that The American Legion supports the great State of Indiana and we support you, Governor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I have flown into Indianapolis many times during my tenure as your National Commander, and I always enjoy seeing the midwestern farmers' field blend into the modern City of Indianapolis with its tall buildings.

The man guiding Indianapolis from the 1970's through the 1980's, and now into the decade of the '90's, is currently serving an unprecedented fourth term as Mayor of Indianapolis. His accomplishments are too many to list.

So ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our Host for this 72nd Convention, the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, William H. Hudnut, III.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. HUDNUT, III
Mayor of Indianapolis

Thank you very much. National Commander Miles Epling, President of The American Legion National Convention Gilbert Sheeks, National Adjutant Bob Spanogle, Distinguished Guests on the dais; Distinguished Delegates to this Convention.

Guests, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Americans, it's a great privilege to have the opportunity to welcome you to the home of The American Legion National Headquarters.

Thank you very much for choosing us as the site for your convention. We hope you have enjoyed our hospitality. We hope you are having a good time while you are here in Indianapolis. We hope you are spending a lot of money while you are in Indianapolis.

And just to show you how generous and gracious we are, I would like to ask everybody from Philadelphia to stand up and be recognized, because we certainly extended you a warm welcome last night in the football game between the Colts and the Eagles.

Where are the people from Philadelphia? There they are. Over there.

Well, you watch it when you get to the County Line.

It was a great pleasure for me and my wife to march in the parade on Sunday and to bring greetings to the crowd that was assembled around the parade route.

I wore this cap, and as I went around, I said, "Hats off to The American Legion. We're awfully glad to have you here."

The cap says on the front of it, "Keep our Flag flying, not burning."

And as I went around the parade route, I said to the ladies and the gentlemen and the kids standing around the route, "I have a six-word speech for you. Honor the Flag, don't burn it."

Or if you want to put it this way to the Flag burners, if you can't stand the Flag, don't stand behind it. Go somewhere else.

Last night the City-County Council adopted a resolution. I have three presentations I want to make and this is the first one, and I want to give it to your National Commander. I'm going to take just a minute and read you one of the Whereases. It's a long resolution of welcome, and in the interest of time I won't read the whole thing.

The middle Whereas it says: WHEREAS The American Legion spearheaded the development of adoption of the United States Flag Code and the several laws enacted to protect the Flag of the United States, and whereas now the 3-million member strong, The American Legion is asking the Federal Government and State Governments throughout the Union to adopt and to ratify a constitutional amendment to give Congress the power to enact legislation protecting the Flag of the United States from desecration.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City-County Council of the City of Indianapolis that we warmly welcome The American Legion National Convention to our City, and it's signed by me as the Mayor, and Dr. Bert SerVaas, the President of the City-County Council.

I want to present this resolution at this time to your National Commander.

For just a minute I would like to indulge in a lighter note and make a presentation to Clarence Bacon from Maryland. I'm sure that many of you are aware that the Baltimore Colts are now the Indianapolis Colts.

Ordinarily people from Maryland aren't too happy to be reminded of that. I see them sitting out there, and since we recognized the people from Philadelphia, everybody from Maryland stand up and I want you to know how proud and pleased we are to have you here with us.

It was on a dark and stormy night in April of 1984 in the deepest dark of night when some Mayflower vans backed up to the Colts' headquarters outside of Baltimore; packed them up and moved them to Indianapolis.

Ever since then nobody will believe it when I say that I think Baltimore is a great city; that William Donald Shafer was one of the great Mayors of this country while he was in office there before he was elected Governor.

I used to live in Annapolis, Maryland, and I want all of you to know sincerely that I love Baltimore but I'm awful glad it's now the Indianapolis Colts and not the Baltimore Colts.

I don't want you to feel incensed or insulted when you find out, if you haven't already, that the address of this facility with the Hoosier Dome is Maryland Avenue.

I have a Key to the City of Indianapolis that I want to present to Clarence Bacon. I would like to give one to each one of you but we are very frugal with the taxpayers' money here in Indianapolis and these cost \$8.26 apiece.

So you will have to accept it vicariously.

My second presentation is to Clarence Bacon with a very warm welcome to all of you, but especially the people from Maryland.

He said don't worry about me, I'm a Redskins fan.

The City is grateful to be the home of The American Legion Headquarters. We are grateful for what The American Legion stands for, as our distinguished Governor remarked earlier.

We are grateful for the way in which you extol the traditional virtues of faith in God and faith in country, faith in democracy, which is, as Abraham Lincoln said, the last best hope of earth.

We are grateful in the way you support the initiatives around the world that will help defend the perimeter of freedom against the encroachment of dictatorship and totalitarianism.

All of us were heart-warmed last year when we saw the walls come tumbling down and the foundations of totalitarianism cracking and crumbling.

Yet I think most thinking Americans realize that even though there are some vast changes sweeping the world in the name of freedom, and democracy was rearing its beautiful head all the way from the Berlin Wall to Tiananmen Square in Beijing, but nonetheless America would still have to be on its guard; America would still have to defend freedom and democracy against mad tyrants, wherever they might appear around the world.

Now is the time to make that commitment, standing firm and fast in the Gulf.

We want to thank you for what you do and what you stand for and the contributions you are making to freedom and democracy and to preserving this land of ours as the home of the brave and the land of the free.

We are honored, as I say, to be the home of the Legion Headquarters, and I would like to present to Mr. Spanogle, your National Adjutant, a City Proclamation which I will deliver at this time, and again I won't read the whole thing, but it says: We call upon all our citizens to join with me in commending the Veterans of the Armed Forces who have protected our country's way of life in peace and in war. We are honored and proud to serve as the site of The American Legion National Headquarters since its founding in 1919.

We are grateful for your Convention being held here, the 72nd National Convention of The American Legion.

So by the authority invested in me as Mayor, I'm pleased to proclaim August 24th to the 30th, 1990 as American Legion Week in Indianapolis.

Thank you very much.

Thanks. Everybody have a great time in Indianapolis. We are proud and pleased to have you here. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Mr. Mayor, we want to thank you very much and we want to thank you not only as good corporate citizens of Indianapolis but for all that you all do here in Indianapolis to help The American Legion. I know that from the way you talk that if anybody happens to get a parking ticket, just bring it to the Mayor's office.

It's our pleasure to present to you at this time the Official History of The American Legion and it's my pleasure to say thank you, Mr. Mayor, for all you do for The American Legion here in Indianapolis.

MAYOR HUDNUT: Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Every Legion Department must have a good leader and the fine State of Indiana has one. He is a Navy Veteran of the Korean War and a 35-year member of New Carlisle Post 297.

He has served his community in a variety of ways. Among those affiliations are Northern Appeal Board of the Selective Service System, New Carlisle Quarter Midget Club, and he is a member of The American Legion Magazine Commission.

An Engineering Specialist at Allied-Signal in South Bend, he will retire in November after 35 years of service.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Indiana Department Commander Donald Conn.

DONALD R. CONN
Department Commander
The American Legion of Indiana

Commander Miles, those up at the dais, the Distinguished Guests, Legionnaires, good morning.

On behalf of the 137,000 Hoosier Legionnaires in the Department of Indiana, I want to welcome you to your 72nd Annual National Convention here in the home state of The American Legion.

We here in Indiana are proud that the National Convention has finally come home, and we look forward to a fruitful and productive Convention.

Thousands of Hoosier Legionnaires have worked long and hard to make this a great Convention. We know that you will be enjoying your stay here in Indiana as you experience our great Hoosier hospitality.

During your stay in our capital city, we hope you take time to visit what we consider to be one of the finest cities in the world, from the Monument Circle in the heart of the city to the National Headquarters on The American Legion Mall, to the world famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Indianapolis is a city filled with activity and sights for all to see.

Again, welcome to Indianapolis and the Hoosier State.

I know you will enjoy your 72nd Annual National Convention.

Thank you, and have fun.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Commander Conn.

If you want to get something done, it's been said, give it to the busiest person because they will make sure the job gets done.

The next individual is that type of person, always busy, always getting the job done.

He is currently serving his ninth term as the National Executive Committeeman from this great State of Indiana.

A Veteran of the United States Army in World War II in the Pacific Theater, he is a member of Post 250 in Mitchell, Indiana. A man dedicated to helping The American Legion in any capacity.

Please give a warm welcome to Gilbert "Gib" Sheeks, the President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Indiana.

GILBERT "GIB" SHEEKS
President American Legion National Convention
Corporation of Indiana

National Commander Miles, Distinguished Guests of this American Legion Convention and to you wonderful Delegates and Guests assembled here this morning.

It would be appropo if I would say after most of you have been here four days, welcome to Indianapolis, to enjoy this Hoosier hospitality. You have enjoyed our hospitality. You have seen a display of patriotism and love of Flag and a festival and a parade of which we are all very proud to have been a part of.

We do not alone deserve the credit, because each of you in your own way have contributed to the success so far of this Convention.

For this short moment at this podium, I want to again thank those Legionnaires of the great State of Indiana for the assistance that they have given to me.

As I said, as this Convention goes forward, you will leave here with many thoughts in your mind, we hope that you leave here with the thought that we have been a hospitable city; that you have enjoyed yourself while you were here.

I cannot leave this podium in loving the Commander as I do, and knowing how much he has fought for the Flag Amendment, without leaving in your mind one simple thing, you know, it was rubbed in the noses of The American Legion and everybody else that we didn't want to amend the Bill of Rights. Well, there's one other thing in the Constitution that I want to remind each of you of, on which you will be making the final decision as you leave here, remember, that the Constitution starts, it says we the people of the United States, not we the Congress of the United States.

Welcome to Indiana. We hope you enjoy yourself while you are here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, Gib.

The warm welcome we have received here in Indianapolis demonstrates the Hoosier hospitality we hear so often about.

It is our tireless effort that has brought The American Legion 72nd Annual National Convention to the crossroads of America. We come to Indianapolis to conduct the business of The American Legion.

It is fitting that this city, the home of The American Legion since its founding, should see the workings of an organization that believes in freedom and supports the American way.

The City of Indianapolis is contributing to the history of the nation's largest and fastest-growing Veterans' organization.

The future of another successful Legion year depends on the hard work of the delegates seated in front of me. This can only be done with the entire support of our membership and with the understanding of our loved ones. It will take time, often time away from our families, but believe me, it will be time well spent.

There is another very important Convention related activity going on right now in the Main Hall of the Convention Center, that is the National Convention Blood Drive.

For the fourth year in a row our Delegates, Members of The American Legion Auxiliary, and others, are taking time to give of themselves for our host community.

On the first day of the Drive, 64 units were collected. Our goal in Indianapolis is 400 units. If we are to reach this goal, your direct involvement is needed.

The Drive continues until 2:30 P.M. today and will be open from 8:30 tomorrow morning until 2:30 in the afternoon.

I encourage all who can donate to consider taking the time. The Convention Blood Donor Pin and Year Bar and by giving blood—what I guess I'm trying to say, and I read it wrong, but we do have a pin to present to you for anybody that gives blood.

Let me personally say that if anybody knows anything about blood, I do, because had it not been for people that gave blood once upon a time in 1969, your National Commander would not be standing in front of you today.

I encourage you if you can, please, give blood.

During the past year, I have had many pleasant experiences, and have met many people that I respect. But none more than the current American Legion Auxiliary President. This seemingly tireless woman has traveled across this great nation guiding nearly one million members of the Auxiliary in their efforts to support American Veterans and the programs of the Legion.

She has drawn on her 38 years of knowledge gained as a member of the organization to effectively guide the Auxiliary into the decade of the 90's.

She has held virtually every position within the organization from National Executive Committeewoman to Communications for the Girls State Program.

During all the years she has dedicated to the Auxiliary, she also raised seven children and is a grandmother of eleven. She devoted much of her time to the activities of her children, such as PTA, Little League and the Western Boys Baseball Association.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, the lady that I walk hand-in-hand with, who has walked the point with me, Mrs. Betty Calder, a member of Kearns Unit 132, Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs. Betty Calder.

MRS. BETTY CALDER
National President, The American Legion Auxiliary

Thanks Commander Miles. National Officers and Distinguished Guests, all, as I have said in my travels, you are all distinguished guests, because you belong to the greatest organization in the world.

Commander Miles, it is a great honor and privilege for me to serve as the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary and represent almost one million members. We have had an increase in membership this year. We did not quite meet that million. You American Legion Members, I have asked and pleaded that you help us reach that million. I know it is coming in the near future.

I want to thank The American Legion members for electing an outstanding National Commander last September 7th. By the way, Miles reminds President Bush that that is not Pearl Harbor Day, but it was on that day that he was elected to service, your National Commander, and I know he has been the best Commander.

I do want to thank all the National Legion Members for working hand-in-hand with the American Legion Auxiliary this year. You have truly included us. And we have tried to walk side-by-side with you.

Yes, the American Legion Auxiliary has given 70 years of service in America, and we will continue to give service, and we will continue, Mr. Commander, to give our support as the Auxiliary to The American Legion in the future.

Mr. Commander, I want to thank you for giving me the privilege to take time from your busy Convention schedule today to bring greetings to all these wonderful people.

I wish you a very successful, happy National Convention. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much for all the work you have done for the American Legion Auxiliary this year. I don't think they could have gotten a better National President.

REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMANDER
MILES S. EPLING
West Virginia

Distinguished Guests, my fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, it's been a year since I asked you to walk the point for America with me. I know it was not easy, but you and countless others did not let this proud West Virginia boy down.

It has been a busy year, The American Legion resolve has been tested on many issues. Our nation has witnessed and taken part in some of the most powerful events in our history.

As we begin our 72nd National Convention, I'd like to reflect on the past year as National Commander for the events of my year, reflect The American Legion's tradition of service to our fellow veterans, their families and the entire nation.

Since June 21, 1989 The American Legion has campaigned without let-up seeking protection for our Flag from physical desecration. This summer the men and women we elected to represent us in Washington failed to take the necessary action to send legislation for a Constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.

The vote in the House and Senate was in stark contrast to public opinion polls showing that 71 percent of Americans considered such an amendment proper.

The fight to protect our Flag is not over.

I know you are as frustrated and confused as I am by the action of our elected Representatives. We have worked hard to see the Constitutional amendment process proceed, as it should.

I assure you, we Legionnaires will not give up. I am confident the same dedication and

spirit that Legionnaires displayed when the lawmakers moved the observance of Veterans Day from November 11th to the fourth Monday in October will again make the difference.

In that effort Legionnaires put pressure on state lawmakers, impressing on them the real importance of the issue. The pressure continued for more than a dozen years. Finally, enough states passed memorializing resolutions seeking a return to November 11th for Veterans Day that the Members of the U.S. House and Senate finally got the picture.

It appears that type of action is called for again. During the upcoming election campaigns I ask you to urge congressional incumbents and challengers in your districts to support this critical amendment.

Take heart, my friends. The spectacular Flag Rally Saturday evening that capped our National Convention Festival sent a strong message to this nation our campaign to protect the Flag is not slowing down. There were thousands of men, women and children from Central Indiana who joined with us on the lawn outside our National Headquarters to say—in a special way—Americans want their Flag protected.

When I reviewed the parade Sunday, my chest swelled with pride time and time again as thousands upon thousands of American Flags were carried along the streets of Indianapolis. I know I witnessed the largest patriotic parade of my generation. Words cannot express how proud I felt.

Each of us gathered in this Convention Hall understands that our Flag must be protected from the publicity seeking tactics of a few. It's ironic that the people who burn the Flag and then hide behind the protection of the Constitution—have never given one ounce of devotion or service to the United States.

They are takers.

As America's Veterans let's be givers. Let us carry the beacon of hope for the majority of Americans who believe as we do—that the Flag should be protected from physical desecration. Let's work to send the message to America—that our elected representatives have—for whatever political reason—lost the perspective of the majority who put them in office.

This is a fight The American Legion will wage for as long as it takes. Legionnaires have never backed away from doing what is right. And when it comes to protecting our Flag—our effort is right.

During my year as your Commander we saw another example of the insight and resolve of The American Legion reflect limited success in our long battle for Agent Orange compensation. Just a few short months ago the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—fellow Legionnaire Edward Derwinski—took a small, but positive, step by directing the VA to consider two rare forms of cancer as Service connected.

This development proves the long-standing American Legion position was correct. The change certainly resulted from continued pressure by the Legion to have our government live up to its responsibility.

But, more is needed. The American Legion seeks fair, equitable compensation for Veterans and their families who believe they suffer because of exposure to the chemical Dioxin, a key ingredient to the defoliant Agent Orange, used widely in Vietnam.

To that end, The American Legion has filed a lawsuit against the Centers For Disease Control, The Department of Veterans Affairs, The Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Government seeking an injunction ordering the valid scientific study mandated by Congress in 1979 be conducted to get to the bottom of the matter.

Our Five-Year American Legion-Columbia University study of Vietnam Veterans proved it could be done.

The efforts of researchers in the United States and in Europe proved it can be done.

But the CDC says such a study cannot be done.

Nonsense. We won't stand for such scientific fraud and voodoo research. We want a study, we want our fellow Veterans given the compensation they earned by faithful service to this nation. This is not too much to ask.

While we in The American Legion press for what is right—we also must look at the entire picture of the Nation's Veterans Benefit Programs. That picture honestly is not rosy. While more money comes to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there remains the threat

of budget cuts and benefit reductions. We've seen this before, and we know how hard it is to get money back.

Remain vigilant, review the good news carefully. Officials in the Administration have made it known—no government budget is off limits to those seeking to slash the federal deficit. That can only mean these people consider entitlement programs very vulnerable.

We in The American Legion understand fiscal restraint. We also understand Government obligation. We must continue to demand that the Government not make Veterans bear the brunt of the budget crunch.

Every American Veteran can depend on The American Legion to fight for their rights and their benefits. I know what it's like to depend on the VA and I'm one of the lucky ones. Those of us who can still raise our voices must continue to battle for those who sense there is no hope.

Yet, those of us in the Legion know there is always hope. We have served this nation and her Veterans for generations—and our commitment will continue into the 21st century.

Two days from now this Convention will elect a new National Commander. An individual to continue to lead this organization to meet the many challenges of the future.

A year ago when I was elected—I doubt that any in that noisy Baltimore Convention Hall could have predicted the freedom explosion that would ripple around the globe. Last summer, the world watched as Chinese students seeking more freedoms were brutally assaulted in Peking.

A few short months later the world watched in awe as the Berlin Wall was chipped away.

One of the moments of my year that I will never forget happened at Check Point Charlie at the Berlin Wall. That check point is gone now, but during my European visit it was there for all to see. As I stood in the shadow of that historic passageway talking with a group of people—an East Berliner walked up, hugged me and thanked me for being an American. He said he was grateful America had not abandoned our resolve that all people be free.

In less than one year the cold war has thawed—and a divided Germany presses toward reunification—at a pace hotter than anyone believed possible.

In the Soviet Union, new freedoms are emerging and a new relationship with the Western World is developing. The American Legion, through the dedicated efforts of Dottie Hill—and the men and women of the Legion Band from Waltham, Massachusetts, have been a part of this new relationship.

Dot and her group have entertained from coast-to-coast. But, perhaps their most memorable concert series came in the Soviet Union last May—when they played in Gorky Park and in the Victory Day Parade.

Can there be any doubt—that the changes around the world have tremendous significance for the national security and foreign relations concerns of the United States—and The American Legion?

For more than four decades this nation has maintained a defense force dedicated to peace through preparedness. Today, we must beware of the so-called "Peace Dividend."

As the winds of freedom sweep Eastern Europe—and even Central America—they carry with them changes for the brave men and women who just eight months ago were called upon to free Panama from the rule of an international thug.

It is becoming clear—the military forces of the future will be leaner when it comes to manpower. Plans for huge, across-the-board cuts in the number of active duty personnel were in the works until being put on hold a few weeks ago. Naturally, we of The American Legion must caution that force reductions be accomplished carefully. Too many of you in this room know first-hand what happens when the country counts on a peace it cannot ensure.

One must only look back to August 2nd—26 days ago—when the forces of Iraq invaded Kuwait. Further military action in that critical oil rich region of the globe presents significant problems to not only the United States—but every country. That action certainly points out why America must maintain a prudent defense—a force that continues to provide essential deterrence.

But, if and when there are wholesale reductions in the number of men and women on active duty, the country cannot forget its commitment to helping them re-adjust to civilian

life and assisting them in whatever ways possible in finding a job. After all, these proud Americans will be in the hunt for a civilian job long before they had planned.

I urge each of you to watch the developments closely and be prepared in your hometown to once again provide job assistance. It is a role the Legion founders believed in—and a role I believe we must be prepared to fill in the months ahead.

A few moments ago I mentioned the changes in Central America. Each of you in this Convention Hall can feel a sense of pride in knowing that you were right. Today, a freely elected government is struggling to meet the critical needs of the people of Nicaragua. This turn-of-events in Nicaragua is heartening.

The new government, elected by the people and headed by Violeta Chamorro, comes about after more than 10 years of strong-arm rule by the Marxist Sandinistas. This election victory came in spite of stories I heard during a visit to that country in 1989—before I became your National Commander.

When I was in Nicaragua at that time, I talked with many ordinary citizens. One of them asked me: "How can you have open and free elections when they hold the guns?" Obviously, he felt that fear was the means by which the Sandinistas would continue to influence voters.

But earlier this year, with the attention of the world focused on the Nicaraguan elections—the Sandinistas lost. Again, we have seen, that when people are given a choice—they will choose freedom and democracy.

There are difficult years ahead for Nicaragua and the other countries in Central America. We know that it has taken more than 200 years for our American democratic experiment to develop. Our country must be prepared to provide appropriate assistance to this struggling new democracy to assure that the strongest voice is heard from the ballot box and not from a gun.

Across America in the past 12 months the men and women of The American Legion have written success stories of their own. These achievements are the result of a strong sense of pride and enthusiasm.

Today—American Legion membership growth continues. We gather in our Headquarters city for Convention with a membership that exceeds that of last year. Your individual efforts made this the sixth consecutive year of growth.

Such a success story does not surprise me. Our growth does not rest on one issue—or one person. Instead it rests with each Legionnaire telling other Veterans about our programs and concerns. One thing that becomes more apparent each day is that we have the support of those who share the values of mainstream America.

Values that include a belief in God. An understanding that to be a responsible citizen requires us to give back something of ourselves to our fellow citizens. A dedication to make America strong. To keep her free. And to insure a bright tomorrow for our children.

Your leadership is important to our continued growth—and our continued growth is important to America.

For it is through such growth that you were able to deliver a little more in every area of our Children and Youth Programs during the past year.

I know the nation is better because a strong American Legion fielded nearly 40 new baseball teams this year.

Five thousand more Scouts were active in Legion-sponsored troops.

More high schools took part in our National High School Oratorical Contest.

More than half of the Departments have organized junior shooting sports programs—Exceeding expectations.

A record number of brochures on drugs, teen suicide prevention and missing children programs were distributed to Legion and non-Legion people.

Our successful Need-a-Lift Education Assistance Program was enhanced by the addition of the Option Four Student Loan Program.

Then, to make the point that Legionnaires are involved in communities in good times and bad—the National Emergency Fund was renewed.

When Hurricane Hugo slammed Puerto Rico and the Carolinas—and a tremendous earthquake ravaged the San Francisco Bay area last fall—it was the men and women of The

American Legion who recognized the need to make sure community assistance would go on after devastating disasters.

The National Emergency Fund has collected nearly a half million dollars to help victims of future disasters.

Such dedication is the highest example of our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and a commitment by men and women who continue to serve this nation.

As we gather in Indianapolis, we celebrate a homecoming. It is a special honor to have this Convention in the city that has been home to our National Headquarters since 1919. I have visited Indianapolis many times over the last 20 years. Every time I am here I marvel at the wonderful park-like mall outside our Headquarters building.

I am taken with this city—and the Hoosier State—for their obvious dedication to the memory of those who have so proudly served in defense of this great land. From the towering Soldiers and Sailors Monument—to the War Memorial Building and Plazas—Indiana sets an example for the nation.

As I reflect on the past 12 months as your National Commander I must wonder—where did the time go? It seems like just a few days ago we were in Baltimore.

And while the summer heat tends to cause us to complain now, my memory is still sharp of a cold February Sunday afternoon in our nation's capitol when we re-dedicated our offices there after a major renovation.

The American Legion can look back on this year as one filled with changes, success stories from around the world. And a time when representative democracy took a back seat to the misguided notion that somehow preventing physical desecration of the American Flag violates a person's right to free speech.

The American Legion has succeeded because of each and every Legionnaire. There is no way I could thank, by name, those who contributed to our success. But, I do want to say a special thanks to my National Vice Commanders: Vincent Blank of Iowa; Joseph E. Caquette of New Hampshire; Andrew Cooper of Alabama; Gerald Goetzinger of South Dakota; and Vinton Guy of Colorado.

Throughout our lives we associate history with the study of what has happened in the past. During our Convention's opening program we reflected on the history of 20th Century America—and how The American Legion filled an important role from generation to generation.

Today, that success story is documented in the book: "The American Legion—An Official History." When I reviewed the early drafts of this book, I developed a new perspective on history. As I read the chapters, I realized that our every effort today creates the history that will be reviewed at some future time.

So, I congratulate you on your efforts. The American Legion is a dynamic organization—committed to serving God and Country. I am proud to have been permitted to represent you across the land and around the world.

When future generations study what The American Legion accomplished in the last decade of the 20th Century—may they come to understand our steadfast resolve to make the world a better place—through our every effort for God and Country.

Thank you. God bless each of you and all that you do.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Now is the business of this Convention when The American Legion provides special recognition to the City of Baltimore, Maryland.

It is indeed an honor to extend this organization's sincere appreciation to Baltimore for hosting the National Convention where you elected me to represent you as your National Commander.

To help with this order of business I'd like to call on the man who turned the helm of The American Legion over to me last year. He marked this year by recruiting more than 3,000,000 members and he contributed significantly in many other areas of Legion life.

Fellow Legionnaires, I am very proud to present to you the Immediate Past National Commander of the American Legion, a good friend of mine, H.F. "Sparky" Gierke from North Dakota.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER H.F. "SPARKY" GIERKE, North Dakota: Thank you very much, Commander Miles.

Delegates to this great 72nd Annual Convention of The American Legion.

I am extremely pleased to have this opportunity to appear before you this morning.

A couple of days ago I had the honor of serving as the Honorary Grand Marshal in this Convention's parade.

Yesterday, I had a reunion with my Team-3,000,000. At that reunion we reflected on a year that we are so proud of and the highlight, as your National Commander pointed out, was reaching 3,000,000 members of The American Legion for the first time in 41 years. Along with our reflections of our pride in one year, however, came feelings of pride and congratulations to Miles and his team of officers for their many great accomplishments during this year. Again, doing something very difficult to do, something we hoped that would be done, on reaching 3,000,000 members in The American Legion, and in fact, increasing its members significantly over the last year.

However, both Miles and I realize that these things do not happen as a result of our leadership, and we can't take the credit for it. It happens because of the hard work of the Blue Cap Legionnaires. Congratulations to all of you.

We are so pleased that you allowed us to grow, and to further our great programs with more members so that we can make this country a better place in which to live.

As your Commander stated, specifically, this is a time to reflect on last year's great Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Baltimore's Mayor Kirk Schmoke could not be with us this morning to receive the recognition plaque. However, it is my distinct pleasure to present the plaque to the City of Baltimore to a dedicated Legionnaire, a good friend, Clarence Bacon, who of course served as our National Commander in '84 and '85, and last year, served as President of the Maryland Convention Corporation.

It indeed is a beautiful plaque, fellow Legionnaires.

Clarence, to his city, grateful citizens, Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion and the great State of Maryland, thank you for your wonderful hospitality. Thank you for a great Convention, Clarence.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CLARENCE BACON, Maryland: Past National Commander Gierke, Commander Epling, ladies and gentlemen, I accept this plaque on behalf of Mayor Kirk Schmoke of Baltimore, and my boss, William Donald Schaefer of the State of Maryland.

We are very pleased to have been chosen to host the 71st Annual Convention of The American Legion.

I especially want to thank Bob Spanogle and his staff, Jim Charleston, Chairman of the National Convention Commission, Bob Radke, and all of the Members of the National Convention Commission, and all of the Members of the National Convention Corporation.

Those are the ones that made Maryland's Convention such a success.

We are deeply honored that you chose Maryland. We thank the National Executive Committee for making that decision, and next week, on behalf of all of you, we'll present this beautiful plaque to the Mayor at one of his staff meetings, with all of his cabinet level people and the City Council present.

Thank you all very much. It was a pleasure to be your host state.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: During this past year it has been an honor and pleasure to have worked with a man dedicated to all humanity. He had contributed greatly to the principles that this organization is built on. He is a compassionate man that truly cares for his fellow man.

He is a Veteran of the United States Army during World War II, and has been extremely involved at all levels in The American Legion as well as his community. He certainly has been an inspiration to all of us this past year as your National Chaplain.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pride that I present to Lynn S. Kearsley this Certificate of Appreciation for his caring and devoted service to The American Legion.

The Certificate says it's a Certificate of Appreciation presented to Lynn S. Kearsley appointed and served as National Chaplain of The American Legion during 1989-1990, given in recognition of faithful and honorable service to The American Legion.

It is my pleasure to present this to you.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN LYNN S. KEARSLEY: Thank you, Miles. I don't have a thing against the Army but I didn't serve with a bunch of guys. I was a Navy man.

It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve with and work for Miles S. Epling this year.

Miles, the Lord has answered our prayers; he's heard those many prayers that have been offered in your behalf as you travel the width and breadth of this country and the many foreign countries that you have traveled in. We give thanks to the Lord for keeping you safe and continue to lead us. Now we will continue to pray for you in the future as we have in the past. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Lynn, let me apologize for saying Army.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The history of The American Legion is filled with stories of significance. Legionnaires, since 1919, have contributed their talents, time and effort to make home towns better. They have stood firm in their resolve to protect earned benefits of all Veterans. They contributed in countless ways to strengthening the democratic system through creative programs.

For more than three years The American Legion has been working with a researcher and author to have a new history book published. Today the countless hours are complete, and "The American Legion, An Official History," has been published.

During my report to this Convention I told you of my impressions of the book when I was reading some of the first proofs. This is a great book that you will enjoy reading, and I believe it will help recruit new members because it details the dedication, resolve and total commitment of Legionnaires through the generations.

At this time I would like to present to this Convention several individuals who played key roles in the completion of the history.

First, The American Legion History Committee. This Committee was chaired by Past National Commander Al Keller, Jr., of Illinois, working with Past National Commander and National Executive Committeeman from South Carolina, E. Roy Stone, and National Executive Committeeman from Kansas, Udie Grant.

On behalf of the Delegates seated in this Hall, and the more than 3,000,000 Legionnaires, thank you for your time and effort. It is a pleasure to present to each of you a Certificate of Appreciation for your effort. These Certificates read:

"In appreciation for the vision of your leadership, and your personal example of devotion to mutual helpfulness, which made this history of The American Legion possible.

"Presented this 28th day of August, 1990, during the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion at Indianapolis, Indiana."

It is signed by our National Adjutant, Robert W. Spanogle, and myself, as your National Commander.

Gentlemen, thank you for your dedication.

The hours of effort to complete this book could have turned into decades if it wasn't for the support of others and the spirit and professionalism of the author.

Our author is a quiet man who has a special ability to communicate with words. His writing style and ability to bring the events of the past into focus is perhaps unique in today's historical authors.

Would you please welcome to our 72nd National Convention, the author of "The American Legion, An Official History," Tom Rumer.

Tom, on behalf of every Legionnaire, it is my distinct pleasure to present a Certificate of Appreciation to you as a symbol of our thanks for your effort. This Certificate reads:

"Certificate of Appreciation presented to Thomas A. Rumer. Author: The American Legion History 1990, in appreciation for your tireless research and eloquent chronicling of

the memories and incidents, comprising 70 years of American Legion challenges and achievements.

"Presented this 28th day of August, 1990, during the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion at Indianapolis, Indiana."

It is signed by Robert Spanogle, National Adjutant, and myself, as National Commander.

In any endeavor such as this, there are people behind the scenes who seldom are recognized publicly. With us this morning on our stage is one of the researchers who helped make this the great publication that it is.

It seems only fitting that one of the first autographed copies of this book be presented to him.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Retired Managing Editor of The Indianapolis News, Wendell C. Phillippi.

Two other individuals who have provided assistance in the research for the history could not be with us this morning. George Geib, the Head of the History Department at Butler University in Indianapolis, and Dr. Robert D. Thornton of South Carolina. Both of these men will be sent autographed copies of the history book in appreciation for their contributions.

Right now I would like to ask Past National Commander Keller to make a presentation to others involved in this history book effort.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AL KELLER, JR.: Thank you very much, Commander. It is an honor for me to be able to help recognize the contributions of several men who also put in many hours to assure this history book was the best it could possibly be.

Would the National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk, and the Publisher and Editor-In-Chief of The American Legion Magazine, Dan Wheeler, please join me. I have a Certificate to present to each of you.

The Certificates read:

"In Appreciation for the countless hours above and beyond your regular responsibilities to The American Legion History Committee which made this history of The American Legion possible.

"Presented this 28th day of August, 1990 during the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion at Indianapolis, Indiana."

These Certificates are signed by Past National Commander E. Roy Stone; National Executive Committeeman from Kansas, Udie Grant, and myself.

Thank you so much.

Dan Wheeler, the Editor and Publisher, you get two. I guess it's because you haven't read this thing yet; you just read the script.

And Tom Hall, our former Librarian, who spent countless hours to put together his part of this book, plus the index. Tom. Thank you very much. Congratulations.

Well, I said what happened to you, to Bob Spanogle. I want you to know that Bob Spanogle also deserves all of our appreciation. He deserves that citation so that he can put it in his library. Certainly one of those days somebody up here better put a citation in the works for Bob.

I know you get paid and all that, but that's beside the point. We thank you for all the work that you did for us, Bob.

Mr. Commander, we thank you very much for this recognition this morning. If I might take personal privilege for just a second.

I spoke about the future of The American Legion through its history for some three or four years to the National Executive Committeemen. Today I would like to take this opportunity for a second to speak to the delegates here assembled in this Convention.

We think we have an outstanding product and certainly we would hope that each of you would purchase a copy of it, read it and then instead of all the time being the members of the choir attending church services, become the preachers; go into your local communities, make distribution of The American Legion History to your libraries, to your schools. Let the entire nation know that The American Legion stands for and what it's done for all these many years that we have had the privilege of holding membership in our organization.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Commander Keller. The American Legion History has a cover price of \$24.95. A special price to Legionnaires attending this Convention is \$16.95 and is available in the lobby. Tom Rumer, the author, is available in the sales booth to autograph those histories. After the Convention the price will be \$16.95 plus a mailing cost of \$3.00, for a total of \$19.95.

It's a great history and of course The American Legion story should be told. A copy should be available in your Post, in your school libraries, and I encourage Posts to purchase these histories so that your community and especially students will have a reference book on our great organization and know our accomplishments for America.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, the next person I have the privilege to recognize is well-known to you all.

People told her that her idea to take her Legion Band to Russia was impossible, it couldn't be done. But to her, the impossible only takes a little longer to accomplish.

Three years and many, many overseas calls later, permission was granted and history was made. Theirs was the first non-communist country band to march down the avenues of Moscow in the May Victory Day Parade.

The Joseph F. Hill Post 156 American Legion Band from Waltham, Massachusetts, became the Ambassadors of The American Legion and The American People. That they were well received is an understatement. As soon as they began playing, the stern faces of the Russian people softened and finally turned into smiles. It's been said that music is the universal language. It certainly was in this case as the Legion Band was asked to perform over and over again.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present this Certificate of Appreciation to the lady that made it all happen. The Director of the Joseph F. Hill Post 156, American Legion Band, Dorothy Slamin "Dot" Hill.

Dot, it's a pleasure for me to present this plaque to you and the plaque reads:

"Certificate of Appreciation presented to Dorothy Hill and the Joseph F. Hill Post 156 American Legion Band of Waltham, Massachusetts.

"In recognition of your outstanding representation of America and The American Legion to the people of the Soviet Union and Europe during your unprecedented visit in May, 1990.

"By the finest example of people-to-people ambassadorship through your spirited music and goodwill, you have helped reduce barriers between peoples and have stirred the hearts and minds of many who have just begun to taste the freedom and democracy they have sought so long.

"The American Legion gratefully acknowledges your many years of service and contributions to this organization and to the celebration of our American way of life.

"Given this 28th day of August, 1990 during the 72nd Annual American Legion National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana."

The plaque is signed by Robert Spanogle as National Adjutant, and myself as National Commander.

Dot, it's our pleasure to present this to you and to your band.

DOROTHY S. HILL
Director, Post 156 American Legion Band

Thank you very much, Mr. Commander. This is certainly an honor for the Waltham American Legion Band Members and myself to have the opportunity to receive this plaque from The American Legion organization.

Just to say a few words about Russia, because many people have been asking questions. You have read about it, it was a dream of mine three years ago that we should never have another war. The first way I thought, because of the period of which I was brought up, was

when we did not respect the Russians and so forth in school; we were taught otherwise. I still felt they were people. I felt it would be a shame on this country if our next generation saw a war.

My first thought was to try to come in contact with people. It took me 15 months to find out to whom I should speak, to even be considered to be allowed to come to Russia. It was a stipulation on our part that we would not go to Russia unless we could participate in their big celebration in May. They were not ready for peace if we could not march with them.

We finally found out after hours and hours of calling, that the Peace Commission were the ones that would determine whether we could come to Russia.

I have to be very honest and say I did not have one individual that encouraged me that we would be allowed to go to Russia, and certainly felt that if we went, that we would never be permitted to march in May. I didn't believe it. I wanted the proof. I continued on.

Things got encouraging when I talked to the Peace Commission member and then finally at about 18 months it seemed to me that I was going backwards; that I wasn't getting anywhere.

So I tried another approach; tried to make them realize that we were not a school band, a college band going on some sort of a tour or exchange. We were an American Legion Band and there were Veterans that saw the wars that they saw, and we should be able to get together as people.

I finally reached a member of the Commission and he listened to me, but then hung up. And I felt I was no further advanced. That went on for another three months.

I finally got them to know that I was not from USA, as they called it, Waltham. They asked me what my intentions were. I told them. And almost every time that I talked to them in the next three to four months, at some time one of the Commission members would say, "Are you government?" I said, "No, I'm not government. I'm just plain Dot, a band leader."

That went on for a while longer and the expression changed to how do we know you are you? So being my 63rd year, I was able to produce evidence for 63 years who I was, and that I had been leading bands, and the evidence that I could produce was for our band that's going into its 43rd year, this particular band. We sent them a big packet of all the pictures.

The next time I talked to them, the same gentleman came up and he said, "We know you are you."

I felt we were almost there. I was then permitted to talk to the President of the Peace Commission. I have to tell you he was one of the most wonderful gentlemen I have ever met and dealt with. He came over to this country. When we came home, Waltham had a celebration for us. He spoke. He has given us an open invitation to come back to Russia again, and he has been simply wonderful.

We have had a couple of other Russian men of authority over here in the last three weeks. We have an open invitation to go back.

I have to tell you that our dealing with the people the first night when we arrived, we went right out and played informally. The crowd grew and grew. This went on for the several concerts that we played. They sang with us, they cried with us, they cheered us. They led the band. One lady, possibly in her late 60's, laid on the ground raising her arms saying "Don't go home Americans. Don't go home Americans."

We received that throughout our whole nine days in Russia, whether it be Moscow or Leningrad, where we played a total of seven concerts and did the parade.

I want you to know that it was the most emotional experience of our lives, and the band representing The American Legion, you should well be proud of. They did an outstanding job.

Not knowing what to expect, we weren't sure what to expect, but whatever it was, it was 100 percent better. They loved us. We loved them. We want to go back.

We are going to have them over here we hope. They are people, ladies and gentlemen and Members of The American Legion, just like us, and they want peace. They made it very clear that they want peace. I think when we left there we had a strong feeling that certainly as far as the people, we could not control our government, but as far as the people, there was going to be peace, and we hope that our government will permit us to handle the peace and let the government handle what they're supposed to do.

I think we can handle the people.

Thank you very much for the opportunity of being here.

I would be remiss if I didn't state that we have received a great honor from the Congress of the United States. On July 16, a four-page writeup on The American Legion Band and their tour of Russia was presented to Congress by Senator Ted Kennedy. It was unanimously approved to go into the congressional record of the United States, that The American Legion Band of Waltham, Massachusetts—and what they did, and it's a tremendous writeup, and we hope that we will be able to get it to the newsletters so that you people will have the same opportunity we have to see what Congress thought. So maybe they're going to start thinking our way.

I would be remiss if we didn't mention, every group has to have a leader, and we couldn't quit regardless of what happened, because we had our Past National Commander, Jake Comer with a whip right behind us.

Thank you very much for the honor, and we hope we can continue to do it. We do have an invitation to come back to Russia and we have an invitation to go to Poland and Holland.

Thank you very much.

At this time I would like to call on the Past National Commander, Jake Comer from Massachusetts.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JAKE COMER: Thank you very much. Mr. Commander, Mr. Adjutant, all distinguished guests here at the dais. In the sake of brevity, fellow Americans all, I want to thank The American Legion of the National organization for extending the tremendous response of praise that you have given to our Band and to Dot Hill here today and through the week, as you invited them to this Convention for the many courtesies.

I also want to express my gratitude for the fact that I was privileged, along with my wife Eileen, to travel to Russia in May with that band. To see the National Colors of The American Legion, my colors, marching in the Color Guard down Gorky Street was something that we would never have believed.

The Soviet government has sent over a tape, a 40-minute tape. We hope to have that tape down in front of the National Headquarters area here at the Convention. We will play that tape through the Convention days for you to see and to witness how the Russian people loved the Americans.

As we marched down the street, they just kept singing America, America. A little child running out and grabbing the American Flag and kissing it, and a father saying please tell our people, tell my children about your wonderful country.

Dot Hill, The American Legion Band and The American Legion is responsible for that, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Thank you and God bless you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Let's give Dot another big hand and the Band, because they are outstanding. They did a good job.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Our next guest has served for more than 16 years in the House of Representatives. Today, he is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

A U.S. Navy Veteran, this gentleman served in the South Pacific during World War II and retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve at the rank of Commander.

He understands dedication to the ideals of this nation. His record of public service spans nearly 50 years.

Of all his accomplishments, one stands out in my mind. His defense of the Flag of our nation. You know how the vote in the House went in June, and you know what we must do in the months ahead. But, we must not forget our friends who voted to protect the Flag.

I could quote from this guest's impassioned address to his fellow congressmen, but I could not capture the power of his presentation. I believe you must witness a portion of his defense of the living symbol of our land for yourself. Please watch the screens:

(Videotape of Mr. Hyde shown.)

We have all kinds of rights. How about one amendment that says we have a duty not to

respect the Flag or love the Flag, but just not to destroy it, not to demeanor, not to defile it. Is that too much to ask one as a duty?

I think we need some duties that understand the responsibilities that go with the responsible exercise of freedom.

My fellow Legionnaires, I present to you a Member of American Legion Post 740, Park Ridge, Illinois, The Honorable Henry L. Hyde, United States House of Representatives.

THE HONORABLE HENRY L. HYDE
U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois

Thank you very much, distinguished National Commander Miles Epling, distinguished Department Commanders, distinguished guests, my fellow Legionnaires: It is indeed a great honor to be invited to speak to you at this great Convention, and in this beautiful town.

As we enter the last decade of the 20th Century, we find ourselves in a state of war—I don't mean overseas, I don't mean the very tense situation in Saudi Arabia where the Iraqi military has attempted to annex Kuwait and force an allied buildup of immense proportions, and test the isolation of the entire world. That is a very dangerous situation, and pray God, that we don't have a shooting war over there. And I think if ever anyplace in the world we will prove that strength is the way to prevent war, it is in the Continental East. And I think the prompt response of our government, and the other governments of the world, has been marvelous, and I think it will keep the peace in that part of the world. How that will end up is difficult to say, but the economic blockade on Iraq is a good one. She cannot last too many months without any food or other supplies coming in, or without other support, and if the other countries of the Middle East can help increase the production of the petroleum so that the shortfall of Iraq and from Kuwait will not impact on the economies of the world, I think that the blockade can work—but there is another war I would like to talk about briefly, and it is a cultural war, and it is going on in our country, and it has been going on for several years.

It is a war between those who despise America, who despise every traditional value and ideal that has made America unique in the history of the world, and those who demonstrate their contempt for America by doing such things as burning the Flag, dragging it in the mud, creating situations where people walk on the Flag. Those are the people that are standing in opposition to test us who love our country, who love what it stands for, who recognize that as long as it is human, it won't be perfect, but we try.

We have a Constitution that we try to adhere to. We have a free democratic system where people get a chance to vote and run for office. We generally have a consent of the governed, and therefore, we have a lot to be proud of in the history of our great country.

So this culture war goes on. It goes on in many theaters. It goes on in television, it goes on in the movies, it goes on in literature, it goes on in the streets.

And the burning of the Flag, as an act of extreme contempt, is but one manifestation of this war between the counter-culture who have contempt for America, and the war between those of us who respect our country and what it stands for.

Now the result of this culture, which seems to be gaining strength through our media is that America is desensitized. America has become coarser in its reaction to some of the affronts that confront us daily.

Our public sensitivities are diminished, because we have learned to tolerate some of these outrages.

Now Flag burning brought to the front one of these controversies. And our Supreme Court in a 5-to-4 decision said that expressive conduct is a form of speech that is protected by the First Amendment.

The other side of that argument, and four of the Justices said no, it is not. Free speech is not unlimited, we have special limitations. For example, obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment. Perjury is not protected by the First Amendment. We have copyright laws which protect some and don't protect other writings.

Nobody has a right to yell fire, in a crowded theater. That is the famous dictum of Oliver Wendell Holmes. We have laws against slander, laws against defamation. So free speech

has always had responsible limitations. Of course, obscenity is the great and most well known limitation, and so, it seemed to us, that calling the burning of the Flag insulting the transcendental symbol of all of our country's histories and all of our country's ideals ought to be one of those things that ought to be protected.

What is so unique about your Flag is, after all, isn't it just a piece of cloth with 13 stripes and 50 stars in it? Well, it is that, surely. But as a symbol, it is more than a symbol. It is a unique symbol. There is no other piece of cloth like that in the world, because it represents the unity, the community that is America.

When you face up to the fact that we do not have the cultural nor the ethnic homogeneity that say the German nation has, that the French has, that the Chinese have. After all you are made up of Poles, Swedes, Spanish and Blacks and Irish. We are made up of many ethnic groups, many, many cultures, many, many traditions. But with all of that disparity, and diversity, we are one country. We share certain marvelous pronouncements and rights and obligations that our founding fathers wrote out for us in our country's birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration of Independence is the first founding document of our country and it says some marvelous things. It says we, meaning those who are founding this country, we hold these rights to be self-evident, in other words, these are not opinions, these are truths, and they are self-evident. They don't require discussion or argument.

These are self-evident truths, we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men, meaning all mankind, meaning all members of the human family, are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Notice that your human rights, human dignity comes from the Creator and it is not an achievement. We have that as part of our very being, by being born members of the human family.

And that endowment is an inalienable act, and it cannot be voted away by Congress or a jury or a judge. It can't be taken away, because it is an endowment from our Creator, and it is an inalienable right.

And then it says some other wonderful things. It says, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

What a marvelous idea that is, that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. And to secure these rights, the right to life, the right to liberty, the right to pursue happiness, governments are instituted and derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Those are remarkable revolutionary ideas, which our founding fathers put in the document that gave us our birth certificate. And the Flag symbolizes that unity that no matter what our ethnic heritage is, no matter what your culture, no matter what our color, race or creed, we all share the fact that we are members of the human family. We get our human dignity and our human rights from the Creator as an endowment, and it is inalienable. We share that, and that Flag symbolizes that unity and that community. That is why it is special. And that is why it ought not to be dragged in the gutter nor demeaned nor defiled by people who want to burn it.

I must say years ago, when the Vietnam Memorial was first conceived, that I looked at it and I felt very badly about it. I did not like it at all. I thought it was a ditch to go into and be depressed in. I thought it was a funeral burial place.

And I must say, and I tell you now, I was wrong. I have gone to this monument, and stood close to it, and those 53,000 names overwhelm you. They just swallow you up, and you, if you look at each of the names on that monument, you realize there are nine women's names there, and you realize that every one of those a young man or young woman who loved America, who loved their family, who loved their ideas, and loved freedom as much as you and I.

And we are here today, pleased by the fact that they gave their lives together doing their duty for their country.

And as you stand there, those names just swallow you, and you feel that you owe them something, and that is very hard to repay.

And then if you exercise your imagination, you have another monument over there for those who died in Korea, and then those who died in World War II, and then a monument above that for those who died in World War I, and then the War of 1812, the Spanish-American War, and the Civil War, and go back to the Revolutionary War, and imagine a monument that goes up to the sky filled with names of heroes and heroines that died and spilled their blood, who gave the last full measure of devotion.

So we are here today, assembling as we please, so that we can go to church on Sunday wherever we want to go, so we can speak our mind and have a free peace. We owe them something. We owe them fidelity. We owe them the defense of those ideals that they died for.

And it seems to me, the Flag, so many men have marched behind it, so many men have slept in a box with the Flag as their only blanket, so many widows and children, and so many fathers and mothers have accepted a folded triangle of a Flag as a last remains of their son, and so it seems to me that is too significant, too important to ever be demeaned by being burned with contempt or dragged in the mud.

On January 31, 1979, the Illinois Delegation to Congress was invited to the Lincoln Memorial. Dun Cho Ping, the Vice Chairman of China was making his first visit to our country, and he was going to put a wreath at the foot of Abraham Lincoln, who sits in that majestic statuary display in the Lincoln Memorial.

And the Illinois congressional delegation was invited to be an honor guard for the Vice Premier of China. And I wanted to be there, because I wanted to see this little man. He was five foot four, 72 years old, coal black hair, very animated, very energetic. I wanted to see him as a symbol of the People's Republic of China. One billion people and 6,000 years of culture history and tradition, and he walks up with his enormous wealth to put a wreath of flowers at this memorial, and I looked at him, and I wondered what did he want from our country. Our country is 200 years and some old, made up of different kinds of people from different countries, different ethnic heritages, different religions, Mormons, Jews, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, atheists, all races, and all religions. In fact, in the deaf language, this is the symbol for America (indicating all-encompassing circle), and how appropriate that is. We are indeed a melting pot. What did he want from us? He wanted food, he wanted technology, he wanted access to our libraries, access to our universities for his students.

He wanted the American upstart, young America, lacking the traditions and cultural historical homogeneity of his great country. He wanted us to drag his country two centuries forward into the modern era.

And I thought to myself, why do we have these things, and his great country not have them? And it suddenly struck me—freedom. Freedom, the fact that a young person can be born in Spokane, Washington, and go to a school in Pensacola, Florida; the mobility that is available to anybody and everybody in this country. The education, the high schools, the junior colleges, the colleges, the graduate schools, the libraries, the books, the publications, the periodicals in our country, anybody, no matter who they are, or where they come from can get a great education if they really want it, if they want to work for it.

In our country, anybody can be an instructor or composer or a lawyer or professor, whatever their brains and energy will let them become. The opportunities are endless and limitless in our country. That is freedom, and that is what was earned for us by every name on those monuments to our war dead.

And so, we owe them an unpayable obligation.

And you gentlemen and you ladies of The American Legion are organized to perpetuate the memory of their sacrifice and to see that their lives were not lost in vain, and that your children and your grandchildren will enjoy the same freedom that they fought and died for.

That is a very noble purpose, and I salute every one of you for fulfilling it.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Representative Hyde, I want to thank you for your unconditional support of a constitutional amendment to protect our Flag.

On behalf of The American Legion, I would like to present to you The American Legion Official History, and I hope you will keep it in your office.

REPRESENTATIVE HYDE: And I assure you I will read it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you a gentleman who represents veterans very well. I would like to introduce you to Mr. Warren Hutchins, Veterans' Affairs Director of Adolph Coors Corporation, who supports American Veterans.

**WARREN HUTCHENS
Veteran's Affairs Director
Adolph Coors Corporation**

Thank you very much, National Commander, National Officers, Fellow Delegates, Legionnaires. I would like to make a presentation.

Presentation

I would like to present to your Commander from our company, this Coors Golden Dog Tag Award.

I remember back a few years ago, when he was a very young man. Miles, would you come up here, please. I would like to read this inscription, please.

"A salute to Miles S. Epling, National Commander of The American Legion from the Employees of the Coors Brewing Company, Golden, Colorado, August 24 to 30, 1990."

The dog tags read, "Miles S. Epling, Service No. 2461385; Branch, United States Marine Corps; Religion, Methodist; Blood Type A positive."

Commander Epling, your dog tags.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much. Thank Ford for me, please.

The Chair recognizes Herman Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a report.

**Report of
SECTION ON CREDENTIALS AND OTHER INTERNAL MATTERS
(of Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs)
Herman G. Harrington (N.Y.), Chairman**

To the Seventy-Second Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990.

Forty eight members and guests of the section on Credentials and Other Internal Affairs met at 9:00 A.M., August 26, 1990, in Room 138, 1st Level, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Herman G. Harrington of New York was elected Chairman, and Larry J. Besson of Illinois was elected Secretary.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the report of the National Adjutant as of thirty (30) days prior to the 72nd National Convention be based upon the provisions of Section 3, Article V, of the National Constitution: Five delegates for each Department, plus one additional delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Convention (July 30, 1990); and one alternate for each delegate. In addition, in accordance with Section 3, Article VII, members of the National Executive Committee which committee includes the National Commander, who exercises his vote only in his capacity as Chairman of the National Convention, and five (5) National Vice Commanders are delegates to the National Convention. All living Past National Commanders are members of the National Executive Committee without vote and life delegates to the National Convention will vote, which is exercised in their respective Departments.

In accordance with the membership report certified to the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs by the National Adjutant on July 30, 1990, and in accordance with Article V of the National Constitution, the voting strength of the 58 Departments is 3,401 allocated as follows:

Alabama	35	Missouri	74
Alaska	14	Montana	19
Arizona	40	Nebraska	73
Arkansas	37	Nevada	12
California	171	New Hampshire	33
Canada	7	New Jersey	94
Colorado	31	New Mexico	20
Connecticut	40	New York	225
Delaware	14	North Carolina	57
Dist. of Columbia	11	North Dakota	35
Florida	120	Ohio	167
France	8	Oklahoma	43
Georgia	51	Oregon	35
Hawaii	9	Panama Canal	7
Idaho	16	Pennsylvania	283
Illinois	175	Philippines	13
Indiana	144	Puerto Rico	18
Iowa	91	Rhode Island	17
Italy	6	South Carolina	33
Kansas	66	South Dakota	37
Kentucky	39	Tennessee	46
Louisiana	55	Texas	105
Maine	35	Utah	15
Maryland	92	Vermont	23
Massachusetts	82	Virginia	57
Mexico	7	Washington	47
Michigan	103	West Virginia	36
Minnesota	144	Wisconsin	89
Mississippi	31	Wyoming	14

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: Mr. Commander, I as a duly registered delegate from the Department of New York move the adoption of this report.

... National Vice Commander Vincent Blank, Iowa, assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER BLANK: Do I hear a second?

... Motion seconded.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER BLANK: All in favor signify by the usual sign, aye; all opposed.

Motion carried.

The Report of the Section on Credentials and Internal Affairs is adopted.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER BLANK: The Chair now recognizes Charles Passo of New York, Chairman of the National Convention on Legislation and Rules for the purpose of making a report.

Report of THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND RULES Charles Passo (N.Y.), Chairman

The Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules met at 10:00 A.M. on August 26, 1990 in Room 124 of the Indiana Convention Center. There were 44 delegates in attendance.

Following preliminary activities to officially organize the Committee, the permanent chairman and secretary were elected. Charles Passo, a delegate from New York, was elected Chairman and Wilbur Walker, a delegate from Virginia, was elected Secretary. The Committee then reviewed and recommended no changes in The Standing Rules of Convention as they appear in the Uniform Code of Procedures for Organizing National Conventions of The American Legion. A motion was carried to recommend adoption of The Standing Rules. It should be noted that no resolutions had been referred to the Committee

for its consideration. The remaining portion of this report contains a brief summary of recent congressional developments in Washington.

Congress will be returning to work next week after a month long recess. We expect that House and Senate members will be in session for five weeks before they go home in preparation for the November elections. During that five week period, they will have to deal with a massive amount of unfinished business.

Most of the remaining work will involve appropriations bills for every federal department and agency. As congressional members begin to make final decisions on those money matters, they will be looking for guidance from the budget summit. This summit—a series of negotiating sessions attended by senior White House officials and congressional leaders—has been underway for three and a half months.

Participants in the summit will be under enormous pressure to reach a final agreement not later than mid September. Even if a final budget package for Fiscal Year 1991 is worked out by mid September, Congress will have only two weeks to complete its appropriations responsibilities before the new fiscal year begins on October 1.

These budgetary decisions will be made even more difficult by several economic factors—including recent events in the Middle East, increasing world oil prices and a faltering U.S. economy.

During the weeks ahead, The American Legion will be pushing for a budget summit agreement because the alternative will be very large across-the-board cuts in many federal programs that we strongly support. The potential cuts in VA health care, certain parts of the defense budget and veterans' employment activities would be devastating.

Our organization's legislative work during the remaining months of 1990 will not only focus on the congressional agenda. We plan to aggressively carry out a continuing campaign in support of a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration.

The initial phase of this campaign will be directed toward state legislatures. Our goal is to put state legislatures officially on record in support of the amendment and to use those statements of support to force Congress to reconsider the entire matter in 1991.

Over the past eight months, The American Legion has been an aggressive leader in Washington on behalf of veterans and the nation's defense needs. A summary of those activities includes real progress in our fight to compensate the victims of Agent Orange exposure. We have been particularly forceful in our pursuit of a reasonable VA budget for Fiscal Year 1991. We have cautioned Congress against a large reduction in military personnel levels. And we have worked closely with Congress to insure that any people forced out of the military will receive all educational and job assistance necessary to make a successful transition to civilian life.

Our nation's leadership has some very difficult decisions to make over the next 60 days. You can be sure that The American Legion will be actively engaged in the debate as these decisions are made on Capitol Hill and, with the full support of the delegates at this Convention, we are confident that our priority interests will be protected.

Mr. Commander, as a delegate from New York to this Convention, I move adoption of this report and The Standing Rules of the Convention, as they appear in the Uniform Code of Procedure.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Do I hear a second?

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Any question? All in favor so indicate by the usual sign; opposed, no.

The ayes have it and it does carry.

The report of the Committee on Legislation and Rules is adopted.

The Chair recognizes Gary W. Sammons, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Americanism for the purpose of making a report.

**Report of
COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM
Gary W. Sammons (MI), Chairman**

To the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990:

Forty-seven members of your Convention Committee on Americanism met at 8:30 A.M. on Sunday, August 1990 in Room 201, 2nd level of the Indianapolis Convention Center to discuss matters of Americanism-related resolutions assigned to the Committee.

The Committee organized by electing Gary W. Sammons (MI), as Chairman; Daniel J. O'Connor (NY), as Vice Chairman; and A. Luke Crispe (VT), as the Secretary.

After initial instructions to the delegates, the Committee of the whole recessed to two subcommittees with Albert J. Moeller, Jr. (NH), as Chairman of Baseball, Oratorical and Youth Activities subcommittee and William J. Plowden, Jr. (SC) as Chairman of the Flag, Immigration and Naturalization and Counter-Subversive Activities subcommittee.

The Subcommittees and consequently the Committee of the whole assembled, and discussed at length a total of 62 resolutions assigned to the Committee. The resolutions considered continue to reflect the desire by many Departments of The American Legion to address matters of patriotism and government, and to maintain strong general Americanism programs that compliment the National Organization and benefit the Nation.

I wish to point out that the Convention Committee on Americanism received resolutions from many Departments calling for a Constitutional Amendment to protect the Flag of the United States from desecration.

Fifty-seven (57) resolutions were considered with 18 being Approved; 2 Approved as Amended; 18 Approved as Consolidated and Amended; 5 Received and Recorded; 8 Referred to the Standing Commission; and 6 Rejected.

The following resolutions were approved:

Resolution No. 566 Subject: Illegal Aliens

WHEREAS, Current law, as established within "The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" (RCA) has not achieved the results desired by The American Legion for addressing the many and varied problems created by Illegal Aliens; and

WHEREAS, Even with IRCA regulations in effect, the number of illegal aliens apprehended at our borders according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, was 1,008,146 for 1988; and

WHEREAS, Illegal aliens in the United States create serious economic problems which include increased welfare costs, adverse effects on the American labor market, and the expense of detecting, detaining, processing and deporting of apprehended illegals; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are displaced from employment by the employment of illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, There must be a broad exchange of information and related action among those Executive Departments responsible for dealing with various aspects of immigration law and illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to reiterate its opposition to any type of amnesty ("legalization") program, that excuses and rewards the law-breaking illegal aliens; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion supports strict enforcement of employer sanctions as called for in current law that provide heavy penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) be provided the monies necessary to ensure both the thorough performance of their duties and the security of the borders of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That aliens illegally in the U.S. should be denied Social Security, unemployment, and other types of public assistance programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress of the United States not to extend or enhance the legalization program beyond what is specifically outlined in IRCA law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the INS or other appropriate government agency develop a counter-feit-proof worker identification system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls for legislation to guarantee a free flow of information and technical assistance between the agencies of government tasked with the various aspects of the illegal alien issue; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That, because certain industries within the U.S. face persistent and/or seasonal labor shortages, The American Legion would support a temporary workers program, provided a numerical quota would be established for such a program and that it would be tightly administered by the appropriate government agency.

Resolution No. 569 Subject: Re-establish House Committee On Internal Security

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always recognized the importance of Congressional Investigating Committees that expose the truth about subversive activities which contribute to the harm and destruction of our Constitutional government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion urges all U.S. Congressmen to support and co-sponsor House legislation to restore the U.S. House Internal Security Committee.

Resolution No. 567 Subject: Include "Pause For The Pledge" In National Flag Day Celebration

WHEREAS, By Act of Congress of the United States, dated June 14, 1777, the first official Flag of the United States was adopted; and

WHEREAS, By Act of Congress, dated August 3, 1949, June 14 of each year was designated "National Flag Day" and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association in Baltimore, Maryland, has been the official sponsor since 1952 of National Flag Day for the United States; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 1980, the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association developed a national campaign to encourage all Americans to Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as part of National Flag Day ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Since this concept caught the imagination of Americans everywhere and has received wide citizen support and recognition, there has now been created the National Flag Day Foundation, Incorporated, to plan the Nation's Flag Day ceremonies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion urges the Congress of the United States to designate the Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as a part of the celebration of National Flag Day throughout the Nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Americans be urged to participate by reciting in unison, the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag on June 14 of each year.

Resolution No. 574 Subject: Amend U.S. Flag Code To Establish The Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day As A Flag-Flying Day

WHEREAS, There have been prisoners of war in, and as a result of each war and almost all armed conflicts, and many times and for many years, very little or no recognition was given to those POW's; and

WHEREAS, The Korean and principally the Vietnam "armed conflicts" have greatly brought to the attention of the citizens, veterans and government of the United States the problem of and slight recognition of POW's; and

WHEREAS, At least 2,400 U.S. veterans of the armed services are still missing in action in the Vietnam "armed conflict" in spite of all efforts of the citizens and veterans and the government of our United States; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Flag Code provides for flying the U.S. Flag on days to recognize certain national and religious holidays, groups of citizens or persons famous in our history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion support and request of Congress an amendment of the U.S. Flag Code to establish the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day as a flag-flying day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all American Legionnaires who fly the U.S. Flag be encouraged to do so on POW/MIA Recognition Day and that they encourage friends and neighbors to do likewise.

Resolution No. 575 Subject: Citizenship Eligibility For World War II Filipino Veterans

WHEREAS, Since the cessation of hostilities of World War II in 1946, only a relatively few Filipino veterans have been able to enter United States territory to avail of their eligibility to become U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Philippine Department has deemed it urgent to take up the cudgel for those remaining Filipino World War II veterans who were and still are deprived of the privilege to enter the territory of the United States in order to avail of the benefits of eligibility to become U.S. citizens, unless they become U.S. residents now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion calls for legislation that would grant eligibility for U.S. citizenship to W.W. II Filipino veterans residing in the Philippines or elsewhere abroad, and whose service with American and Allied Forces was honorable.

Resolution No. 570 Subject: Reaffirmation Of American Legion Support Of The CIA and FBI

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always recognized the importance of investigations that expose the truth about subversive activities that may harm or seek to destroy our Constitutional government; and

WHEREAS, The Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, both security agencies of this Nation, perform functions essential to the maintenance of our national security; and

WHEREAS, These agencies, from time to time, come under attacks both from enemies of our country and from misguided idealists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion calls upon the President and the Congress of the United States to immediately take such action as may be appropriate and necessary to significantly strengthen both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and all other intelligence and security agencies that protect us from foreign espionage, organized crime and subversive activities.

Resolution No. 571 Subject: Restore Patriotic Holidays To Traditional Dates

WHEREAS, The dates of certain patriotic holidays have been changed from their original dates to create "three-day" weekends; and

WHEREAS, The time-honored traditional observances of these holidays has been eroded; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion calls upon the Congress of the United States to restore the official observance of Washington's Birthday to February 22, Memorial Day to May 30 and Columbus Day to October 12 each year.

Resolution No. 572 Subject: Internal Security Of The United States

WHEREAS, The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has virtually abandoned any investigation of government employment applicants for subversive activities, or membership in subversive organizations, to include membership in the Communist Party; and

WHEREAS, Such inaction must certainly contribute to the weakening of the internal security of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion calls upon the Congress and the President of the United States to approve legislation and executive action necessary to deny Communists the ability to infiltrate and subsequently destroy our government agencies and institutions through federal employment.

Resolution No. 573 Subject: Recommend That The U.S. Senate and The House Of Representatives Recite The Pledge Of Allegiance At The Beginning Of Each Daily Session

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives begin each daily session acknowledging the presence and guidance of a Supreme Being through prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is customary in the opening of public meetings to recite the Pledge of Allegiance following the prayer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion encourages the Pres-

ident of the U.S. Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or their designee to lead the members of their respective House in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each daily session.

Resolution No. 576 Subject: The English Language Be Declared As The Official U.S. Language

WHEREAS, In the United States the English language is undergoing gradual displacement in this era of high immigration; and

WHEREAS, While many immigrants want to learn English because it is the key to economic opportunity in the United States, some immigrant groups appear to minimize the English language concept, providing little encouragement to learn English and thereby discouraging newcomers from joining the mainstream culture in America; and

WHEREAS, Bilingual education programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education, in large, are designed to provide long-term instruction in a student's native language, while English is subjected to a secondary status; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned programs and practices tend to encourage separatism rather than unification of purpose; and

WHEREAS, The cost to all Americans would be accountable to have all legal papers, ballots, court proceedings, and laws printed in foreign languages, and dialects; and

WHEREAS, English has been recognized as the official language by eighteen states that have enacted legislation or amended their constitutions to designate it as such; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion strongly urges that by an Act of Congress, and acts by State legislatures, the English language be declared the official language for government in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion should work to develop in all Americans an appreciation for the role English plays in holding our society together and making this Nation strong; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress, through legislative action, to increase support for and fund alternative bilingual education programs that will serve as short-term steps for immigrants to achieve proficiency in the English language.

Resolution No. 577 Subject: Oppose Foreign Manufacture of American Flags

WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States is a uniquely American symbol; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Code of the United States as listed in Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10, subsection 176(j) states that: "The Flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing"; and

WHEREAS, Thousands upon thousands of Americans have risked, and in many cases given, their lives in the defense of the Flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that foreign manufacturers have begun making and importing United States Flags and/or merchandise which violate certain provisions of the United States Flag Code; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 191, 1982 National Convention, Chicago, Illinois resolves that The American Legion promote through its Posts and Departments the purchase of American manufactured goods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 1, National Executive Committee, October 13-14, 1982, resolves that The American Legion urge the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government to purchase and lease American manufactured goods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 157, 1987 National Convention, San Antonio, Texas, resolved that we support legislation to have the Army and Navy purchase United States steel and to void all contracts with foreign imports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion encourage its membership through the Departments and Posts to purchase and display only American manufactured Flags of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation through the United States Congress to prohibit the importation of foreign made Flags of the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek additional legislation to prohibit the importation of any item of merchandise bearing a design, in any shape, size or medium, which the average person might believe to represent the Flag of the United States.

Resolution No. 579 Subject: Injured or Disabled Non-Citizen Veterans Applying For Naturalization

WHEREAS, During our Nation's call to arms in the preservation of our liberty, our Nation has been blessed with the services of individuals from many nations who cherish liberty; and

WHEREAS, Our Congress has recognized that through service in our Armed Forces these servicemen have forged a bond with our Country; and

WHEREAS, Under the present Immigration and Nationality Act the non-citizen soldier is allowed to apply for naturalization only upon completion of three (3) years of active duty; and

WHEREAS, Some non-citizen servicemen were injured or became disabled while on active duty and were medically discharged from the Armed Forces for these said injuries or medical conditions prior to three years of active duty service; and

WHEREAS, Admitting men and women with service-connected disabilities into the U.S. does not increase the taxpayer's obligation, since all U.S. veterans, without regard to their citizenship or residence, are currently entitled to both disability compensation and medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion support legislation that will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow non-citizen veterans with less than three years of active duty—because of injuries incurred or aggravated while on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces—to seek naturalization or admission to the U.S.

Resolution No. 580 Subject: Memorial Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, Veterans have shown their concern for the lack of observance of traditional Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans view Memorial Day as a time for relaxation and leisure recreation rather than as a solemn occasion; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was intended to be a time to reflect and pay tribute to the American servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives in defense of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, By urging the ringing of bells in our communities for one minute on traditional Memorial Day, May 30th, it will help Americans to realize that the true purpose of this day is to pay tribute to those who have given so much for their country; and

WHEREAS, Our hope for the future has been made possible because our servicemen and women have made sacrifices in order to secure freedom for America and the ringing of community bells is a fitting way to observe traditional Memorial Day in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion urges the passage of federal legislation that would result in an annual Presidential proclamation calling on all American institutions, public and private, to toll their bells for one minute, beginning at 11:00 A.M. on traditional Memorial Day, May 30th, in remembrance of the servicemen and women who died defending our Nation and our freedom.

Resolution No. 582 Subject: Star-Spangled Banner As The National Anthem

WHEREAS, The Star-Spangled Banner became our National Anthem on March 3, 1931, when President Herbert Hoover signed Public Law 823 on the 71st Congress; and

WHEREAS, We believe that many millions of Americans cherish and respect the currently accepted version, both words and music, of "The Star-Spangled Banner," such version being the "Service Version," prepared in 1918 by the War Department for use in Army and Navy song books; and

WHEREAS, We want no changes, omission or tamperings with the words or music of our National Anthem as adopted by Public Law No. 823 of the 71st Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion is totally opposed to

any changes in the words or music of our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" as adopted under Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress.

Resolution No. 584 Subject: Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America provides for the common defense of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms we enjoy and the security of our Nation that we desire rests on the individual determination of each of us to help preserve it; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in Congress that would allow conscientious objectors to elect to have their taxes spent for non-military purposes; and

WHEREAS, Implementation of such a practice could affect military strength and national security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion is opposed to legislation that would give conscientious objectors a voice in diverting monies from military spending.

Resolution No. 585 Subject: Pearl Harbor Day

WHEREAS, December 7, 1941 is the "day that will live in infamy" and is the day that changed the lives of everyone on earth; and

WHEREAS, On this day over two thousand American lives were and millions of dollars in damage was done to ships, planes and property; and

WHEREAS, These losses were sustained in a sneak attack on a Sunday morning by a nation with which we were at peace; and

WHEREAS, The people of our nation should never forget the sacrifices of those brave Americans or the folly of being unprepared to defend this great nation; and

WHEREAS, The media around the world gives great coverage to the memorial services at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, even though these people were forewarned and were not subject to a sneak attack from a nation with which they were not at war; and

WHEREAS, Everyone should be reminded that if there had been no attack on Pearl Harbor there would have been no need to destroy these two cities in lieu of an invasion of the Japanese homeland—an invasion that could have cost a million more American and Japanese lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion join with other concerned groups to expand Memorial observances on December 7th to include candlelight services in order that we never forget Pearl Harbor Day—a day which has become a part of our American heritage; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Flag Code be amended to designate that the Flag be flown at half-staff on December 7th until noon in the manner in which the Flag is currently displayed on Memorial Day.

Resolution No. 586 Subject: School Prayer (Constitutional Amendment)

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion begins with "For God and Country"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been an advocate of seeking the guidance of God in the affairs of this Nation and for those individuals who serve the people and the Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion reaffirms its support for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would permit voluntary prayer in public buildings.

Resolution No. 587 Subject: Opposition To A Constitutional Convention

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains committed to the defense of the Constitution of the United States of America, including any legal defense against those who intend to change the document's intent or expand its purpose; and

WHEREAS, The integrity of the Constitution is being challenged by persons who state that it does not meet the requirements or demands of modern society; and

WHEREAS, Efforts are underway to convene a Constitutional Convention ostensibly

to mandate a balanced federal budget, although convening such a convention could result in radical Constitutional changes that would go far beyond budgetary matters; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for any Constitutional Convention to yield to the demands of varied special interests, and, in so doing, to fundamentally alter the basic provisions of our nation's government documents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion express firm opposition to convening a Constitutional Convention and to any efforts seeking to rewrite the U.S. Constitution beyond the existing procedures required for amending the document.

... The following resolutions were approved as amended:

Resolution No. 568 Subject: Voluntary School Prayer—Legislative Solution

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans have historically believed in seeking God's protection and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, The value of expressing spiritual convictions through public prayer has been recognized as a firm basis on which to conduct public proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court decisions during the early 1960's have had the effect of severely restricting the practice of any manner of public prayer although these decisions simply addressed prescribed or compulsory prayer; and

WHEREAS, This restriction is most evident in our nation's public schools where a concurrent moral and spiritual decline is clearly manifested; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That we urge the Congress of the United States to assume its responsibility in correcting the unnecessary problems created by court rulings which prohibited prescribed or compulsory prayer; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress of the United States to express its majority belief in the value of voluntary prayer in public schools and at other public gatherings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress pass legislation to promote the concept of school prayer, in order to insure that our National public school children have a daily opportunity to pray.

Resolution No. 578 Subject: Flag Code Amendment

WHEREAS, The United States Flag Code, Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10, Subsections 173-178, is a codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the Flag of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Practices and customs have been modified in the past few years regarding certain display procedures; and

WHEREAS, Previous modifications of the Flag Code did not clearly state the intent of some procedures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion seek the appropriate legislation or Presidential proclamation to alter, amend, or modify, as indicated, the following provisions of the United States Flag Code, Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10:

SS174. Time and occasions for display

(d) The Flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; (Martin Luther King Day, third Monday in January;) Inauguration Day, January 20; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, April 13; (Loyalty Day—Law Day U.S.A., May 1;) Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; (National Maritime Day, May 22;) Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; (Flag Week, week of June 14;) Father's Day, third Sunday in June; Independence Day, July 4; (Aviation Day, August 19;) Labor Day, first Monday in September; (Citizenship Day), September 17; (American Gold Star Mother's Day, last Sunday in September;) Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veteran's Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Pearl Harbor Day, December 7; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other

days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

SS175. Position and manner of display

(f) When flags (or pennants) of States, cities, or localities, societies (, or corporations) are flown on the same halyard with the Flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the Flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the Flag of the United States or to the United States Flag's right. (, that is the observer's left.)

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace. **(The Flag of the United States should be on its own right, the observer's left. The flags of other nations are displayed on the observer's right and in alphabetical order from left to right.)**

(m) **(The Flag displayed at half-staff is a sign of national mourning and a mark of respect to the memory of principal figures of the U.S. or State Government and should not be so displayed, except as provided herein, or in special proclamation by the President of the United States or the Governor of any state, territory or possession. No other official may designate the United States Flag to be displayed at half-staff).** The Flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The Flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Day—December 7th, the Flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the Flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the Flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National Flag shall be flown at half-staff. The Flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. As used in this subsection—

(1) The term "half-staff" means the position of the Flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;

(2) The term "executive or military department" means any agency listed under Sections 101 and 102 of Title 5; and

(3) The term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico.

SS176. Respect for Flag

(i) The Flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered (, **printed or used in a design**) on such articles as cushions (, **linens,**) handkerchiefs (, **clothing, labels,**) and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and (**disrespectfully discarded**). Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the Flag is flown.

(j) No part of the Flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, (**postal workers,**) and members of patriotic organizations. The Flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

... The following resolutions were approved as consolidated and amended: Resolution No. 66 (AL) titled "National Observance For 'The Star Spangled Banner' Day" and Resolution No. 583 (Convention Committee on Americanism) using the language of Resolution No. 583.

Resolution No. 583 Subject: National Day Of Observance For "The Star Spangled Banner"

WHEREAS, The United States does not officially recognize a day to observe the adoption of "The Star Spangled Banner" as our National Anthem; and

WHEREAS, On March 3, 1931, an Act of Congress declared "The Star Spangled Banner" as our National Anthem; and

WHEREAS, The history of our Flag and our National Anthem should be ingrained in the lives of every American man, woman, and child; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion calls for the establishment of March 3rd of each year as a national day of observance for "The Star Spangled Banner" and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the patriotic observance of this day shall stress the origin of "The Star Spangled Banner" and the Flag; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Americanism Commission shall develop and support ways in which this day can be celebrated nationwide and encourage Departments and Posts to participate.

The following resolutions all titled "Flag Desecration" were approved as consolidated and amended:

Resolution No. 559 (Phil.); Resolution No. 517 (OK); Resolution No. 458 (WA); Resolution No. 425 (MO); Resolution No. 424 (MO); Resolution No. 386 (IN); Resolution No. 372 (CO); Resolution No. 290 (MD); Resolution No. 259 (ID); Resolution No. 218 (MN); Resolution No. 177 (WI); Resolution No. 126 (IL); Resolution No. 71 (ND); Resolution No. 30 (LA); Resolution No. 26 (MA); Resolution No. 581 (Convention Committee On Americanism) using the language of Resolution No. 581.

Resolution No. 581 Subject: Flag Desecration

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States provides many readily available methods of expression which can be used as a form of protest; and

WHEREAS, There exist federal and state penal codes to protect the Flag of the United States from desecration; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States, in TEXAS vs. JOHNSON, decided June 21, 1989, ruled that an individual could not be prosecuted for desecrating the Flag of the United States, as such an act was constitutionally protected as a freedom of speech under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Protection Act of 1989, enacted by Congress to re-establish protection for the Flag of the United States from desecration, has likewise been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, These rulings firmly establish precedents which may invalidate all existing state and federal laws which have been enacted to protect the Flag of the United States from such malicious abuse and desecration; and

WHEREAS, Neither our Founding Fathers, members of Congress and State Legislators, nor any responsible person in the history of our Republic, ever intended that anybody should be allowed to desecrate and mutilate the very Flag which has stood as a beacon of hope to the oppressed peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States is a living symbol of all our freedoms, morally obligating all responsible citizens to preserve, protect and venerate the Flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Protection of the Flag of the United States from desecration can only be assured by the enactment of a Constitutional Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion spearheaded the development and adoption of the United States Flag Code and the several laws enacted to protect the Flag of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion express its unequivocal opposition to allowing desecration of the Flag of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourage its members and all American citizens to wage a "positive protest" through a petition drive in support of the adoption and ratification of a Constitutional Amendment, giving the Congress the power to enact narrowly drawn legislation to protect the Flag of the United States, and by displaying the Flag of the United States on a daily basis; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion petition the governments of the United States and the Fifty States, seeking the adoption and ratification of a Constitutional Amendment giving the Congress the power to enact narrowly drawn legislation to protect the Flag of the United States.

The following resolutions were received and recorded:

Resolution No. 558 (PHIL.) Subject: **Naturalization To Filipino World War II Veterans**

Resolution No. 99 (OH) Subject: **Support Legislation To Make English The Official Language Of The United States**

Resolution No. 364 (MD) Subject: **Memorial Day**

Resolution No. 287 (VT) Subject: **Memorial Day**

Resolution No. 196 (NY) Subject: **Memorial Day**

The following resolutions were referred to the Standing Commission:

Resolution No. 186 (PA) Subject: **Flag Desecration**

Resolution No. 80 (MA) Subject: **Flag Desecration And Student Assistance**

Resolution No. 98 (OH) Subject: **Flag Merchandise**

Resolution No. 453 (MI) Subject: **Flag Merchandise**

Resolution No. 119 (AR) Subject: **Proper Respect For The United States Flag**

Resolution No. 157 (KS) Subject: **Pledge Of Allegiance 100th Anniversary**

Resolution No. 260 (ID) Subject: **Establishment Of The American Legion Baseball "B" Team Program**

Resolution No. 371 (CO) Subject: **Liability Insurance Coverage For American Legion Baseball Programs**

The following resolutions were rejected:

Resolution No. 118 (AR) Subject: **Oratorical Contest** Reason: In conflict with existing program.

Resolution No. 135 (IL) Subject: **Candidates Running For Elected Public Office** Reason: In conflict with existing policies.

Resolution No. 217 (MN) Subject: **National American Legion Baseball Player Eligibility Requirement** Reason: In conflict with existing program.

Resolution No. 555 (VA) Subject: **Proper Respect For The Star-Spangled Banner** Reason: Impossible to implement.

Resolution No. 97 (OH) Subject: **Flag Bumper Sticker** Reason: In conflict with existing policy.

Resolution No. 125 (TX) Subject: **Flag Desecration** Reason: Impossible to implement.

I move adoption of my report and these resolutions.

... The motion was duly seconded and carried.

... At this time a video of Flag Burning was shown to the delegation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Look at that screen. Keep that image of that young man in your mind. There is a purpose to all our efforts to protecting the Flag.

You have heard me tell of my trips to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. I go there because the names of my buddies are etched in the bleak black walls. Those visits are not easy for me, knowing that there are those who view our Flag as merely a piece of cloth.

I know, and the families of those whose names are on that wall know, and each of you know the Flag of our nation is much, much more.

The Flag has been a beacon of hope and a haven for the oppressed peoples of the world for more than 200 years. During my visits to the wall, I promise my buddies that The Amer-

ican Legion and the majority of good, honest Americans will not let this Supreme Court decision rest until our Flag is protected.

As proud Legionnaires, as proud Americans, I ask you to take an active part in the campaign for a Constitutional Amendment. Do it for your friends, do it for your fallen comrades. Do it for all Americans.

Most important, do it for the next generation. American values must be preserved, protected and nurtured. I know of no better organization to lead this effort than The American Legion.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Aaron Wildey.

Aaron represents what we are talking about. The future leaders of America who must grow to understand the special place our Flag has in its hearts. With Aaron are his parents, Brad and Sarah. You might remember them from the Festival Saturday when their group "Heart song" entertained on the Legion stage.

Fellow Legionnaires, Aaron, Brad and Sarah are doing their part for our Flag. Can I count on you people?

As we continue our campaign on behalf of the Flag of our country, and it is important you understand there are those in Washington who support our effort, who recognize the deep significance of the Flag. Our next guest is such a friend.

Each year when I came to the Convention, as a Delegate, I always looked forward to this particular part of the program.

It is my pleasure and honor to introduce this next group of individuals who have already made a mark for themselves. They are the next generation of leaders building on the strong foundation we and our forefathers have laid.

Perhaps most important to each of us, they move toward that leadership role with knowledge gained through The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary programs.

YOUTH CHAMPION DELEGATION

Karl Edward Hertz

1990 Boy Scout of the Year

Our first youth representative continues the tradition and involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. The 1990 Scout of the Year graduated from Malvern Community High School in Malvern, Iowa.

He joined the scouting program in 1980, and worked his way through the Cub Scouts, and the Boy Scouts and earned his Eagle award in October, 1989. His accomplishments during high school were many. He is an individual that cares about others. He completed 150 hours of Emergency Medical Technical training, and is the youngest member of the Malvern Volunteer Rescue Unit. The list goes on.

In 1989, he followed the tradition established by his father and his grandfather as he became a third generation participant in The American Legion Boys State Program. The Scout of the Year plans on attending Northwest Missouri State, majoring in public relations and mass communications.

Sponsored by Harry Hammond, Post 520, Malvern, Iowa, please welcome our Scout of the Year, Karl Edward Hertz.

KARL EDWARD HERTZ

1990 Boy Scout of the Year

Thank you, Commander Epling, National Officers, Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, distinguished guests. There are no words I can use to thank you for the honor you have bestowed on me.

Scouting goals and Legion ideals seem to go hand in hand, and I pledge to do everything in my power to live up to the confidence you have shown in me.

At this time, I would like to introduce my mother and father, Karl and Terri Hertz.

Without their support, I could not be here today.

I also have my two brothers down in the audience, Ken and Keith Hertz, and my grandmother Lenore.

You have been a wonderful host, and most generous with your compliments and hospitality. I also would like to thank everyone who have given myself and my colleagues these wonderful pins. I am sure I will be reminded of your hospitality as I try to pass the metal detectors at the airport this afternoon.

I have made new friends here and I know the rest of my life has been changed because of this moment. Thank you very much.

1990 ORATORICAL CHAMPION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The United States Constitution and our amendment process have received many headlines this past year. One way The American Legion insures that the younger generation learns about the U.S. Constitution is through the National High School Oratorical Contest the Legion sponsors each year.

This year's winner told a packed Tampa, Florida auditorium, "Because we live in a republic which is a representative form of government, we have to keep our officials informed on what we wish them to do in order for them to accurately represent our interests." Truer words were never spoken.

The 1990 winner from Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, will attend David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sponsored by Latonia Post 203, Covington, Kentucky, here is Joshua E. Boyd.

JOSHUA E. BOYD 1990 Oratorical Champion

It is great to be here today and to be able to talk to you and thank you for your support this year.

I have had a chance to meet a lot of you at this Convention and at some of the competitions along the way. And I thank you for being willing to volunteer your time in competitions like this that helps us learn about the Constitution.

I have been able to speak at a number of Posts and Department meetings, and I hope that will continue, because I enjoy talking to you as Legionnaires.

There are a number of specific people that I would like to thank, but I am told I only have time for three. First, I would like to thank my dad, Steve Boyd, who has been my speech coordinator for years, and especially in the last two years has helped me a lot in this contest.

I would like to thank Ray Weaver of the Department of Florida for putting an incredible national finals on in Florida.

Commander Epling, Mr. Weaver put on a show that I would think would be for you, but we were treated like a relative down there, and I appreciate what the Department of Florida did for us.

I would like to lastly thank Mr. Donald Conn, who is outgoing Commander for the State of Indiana. Mr. Conn after his contestant lost at the Regional put all his support with me, and sent me telegrams for the next two steps of the contest. He called me, and I was really appreciative of the support that he gave me.

I thank you all for being here and for bringing us here this weekend.

I thank you for caring for America's youth. Have a great convention.

1990 BOYS NATION PRESIDENT

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Our next guest has already demonstrated leadership traits unique for someone his age. He is the President of the 1990 Boys Nation program that was completed just a few short weeks ago in our Nation's capital.

Leadership is no stranger to this young man. He is entering his senior year at Duncan High School in Duncan, Oklahoma, and is the Class President as he was for the three previ-

ous years. Other activities include the Key Club, Student Council, and he is actively involved in football, baseball, track and cross country.

College plans have not been decided on at the present time, but he would like to join the United States Foreign Service.

Please welcome the President of Boys Nation, Jerome Loughridge.

JEROME R. LOUGHRIDGE
1990 Boys Nation President

Thank you very much. By way of introduction, there is someone here of whom I am very proud and I would like for you to meet, and that is my father, Bill Loughridge, United States Air Force, 1968 to 1974, and as of a few minutes ago, a new member of The American Legion.

In the land filled with opportunity, you have given me the greatest opportunity that a 17 year old boy could ever receive by your funding and through your support of the programs of Boys State and Boys Nation in which you have given young men across the nation an unparalleled opportunity to have a hands-on experience in our institution of democracy.

I realize that I could never adequately repay you for what you have done for me. That as I prepare for a career in public service, I promise you that I will never forget The American Legion.

I realize that whatever it is that I may accomplish in reality is your accomplishment as well.

From my heart, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I want to thank you all very much.

Now as you heard me speaking of my travels around this great country and talking about the kids, I believe in them very much. As I told many of you, many of you have heard me say, I don't think sometimes we take time out to tell them we care about them.

So when you leave the Convention, before you go home, take a few minutes, pick up a phone or give one of them a hug, and just tell them you care about them, because this is the future of America, and I think we have got a good future right here.

... At this time National Commander Epling presented plaques to the Youth Champion Winners.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Each year The American Legion recognizes one Department for achieving outstanding results in Americanism programs.

The winning Department is selected by the National Americanism Commission on the basis of total resources—manpower as well as financially, have devoted to Americanism activities during the Legion program year.

The William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy is an impressive award named in honor of one of American journalism's most prominent and influential figures.

To make the presentation we have asked an individual that has dedicated his life not only to the publishing industry, but to his community as well. He is the Past President of the Michigan League of Home Dailies, a member of the Michigan Press Association, a member of the Midland Rotary Club, and a member of the Music Society of Midland Junior Achievements.

It is my pleasure to introduce to this body Otto Wick, Jr., for the purpose of announcing the winner and making the presentation, Mr. Wick.

PRESENTATION
WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY
Otto Wick, Jr., Vice President and Publisher
Midland Daily News, Midland, Michigan

My sincere thanks for having me here today. I am honored here both as a veteran myself, and as a representative of the Hearst Corporation to present the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Award for the second time.

It was my pleasure to present this award in New Orleans in 1978.

While I never personally met Mr. Hearst, I have been employed by his newspaper group for 28 years.

During that time, I have learned that nothing can be more appropriate than an award for Americanism in Mr. Hearst's honor.

He was unabashedly an American. His newspapers prided themselves in their Americanism. It is a heritage he left that marks each of his newspapers today.

I think the best way to demonstrate this is not with my word, but with his.

On November 20, 1920, a signed editorial entitled, "Democracy Means Americanism" appeared over Mr. Hearst's signature in each of the Hearst newspapers.

Allow me to share a small part of that with you:

"Democracy means concrete things. It means the greatest good for the greatest number. It means liberty, equality, opportunity, the cornerstone on which our republic rests. It means freedom, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of publication and discussion; freedom of action within the law.

"It means loyalty and devotion for our own land and to the aims and aspirations of our own people. And it means abstinence from the hatred and contentions of foreign people and their entangled alliances of foreign nations against which all the great democrats of our history, all great Americans of our history have warned.

"Democracy means progress, but it means progress along established lines, progress in an orderly manner. Democracy means Americanism."

As I have said earlier, Mr. Hearst was proud of his Americanism. He wanted others to have that pride, and he worked hard to encourage it. Mr. Hearst's Americanism was not complicated. It was not philosophical, it was concrete. He believed in liberty, equality, justice, independence, the essential things that the Republic was found to secure.

It is with a great sense of honor and pride both in my association with the Hearst Corporation and my Americanism that I present this award to the Department of Ohio on behalf of the Hearst Corporation.

... At this time, the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy was presented to the Department of Ohio in recognition of their Americanism activities during the Legion program year.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It is a personal pleasure for me to introduce our next guest to you. He comes to Indianapolis as a staunch supporter of America's Veterans, and the "first" Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He was sworn in March 15, 1989, as the first Secretary of the largest Department of our government. The Department of Veterans Affairs is a nationwide system of healthcare services and benefits programs for more than 27 million American Veterans.

In a little over a year, since he assumed the important task of managing America's Veterans Affairs Department, the world political picture has changed significantly. Financial problems within our own boundaries have dramatically surfaced. Financing current government programs, supporting new programs, and finding resources to correct the mistakes of others is the monumental task for our elected representatives.

We live in a prosperous country, but its pockets are not bottomless. His constant vigilance in supporting and defending Veterans programs brings credit to a man that has historically fought the good fight for all American.

A former Congressman from Illinois—a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly—and a life member of American Legion Post 1160 in Chicago Ridge, Illinois.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Edward J. Derwinski.

THE HONORABLE EDWARD J. DERWINSKI **U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

Thank you, Miles. I appreciate the slightly exaggerated introduction, and I also appreciate the chance to be here again at The American Legion National Convention and see the wonderful job that you continue to do to lead our Veterans across the country.

I should add, it was with a bit of curiosity that I watched the presentation of the trophy just now to the Department of Ohio. And I think it is wonderful.

I commend the Legionnaires in Ohio for their achievement. But I know, speaking objectively, and speaking historically, it is really Illinois that runs The American Legion. I want you all to know that I appreciate that.

And then of course, Ohio has a number of claims to fame. One of their claims to fame is Mylio Kraja who has represented you so completely and effectively so many years in Washington.

Mylio is threatening to retire. And I just want you to know, speaking both personally and for the VA, we are extremely sorry to see Mylio retire. He is the best Washington rep that any veterans organization has. And he will be a tough act to follow.

I just want you to know how totally effective for the Legion and for all veterans and for our country Mylio has been while he has represented you so very, very ably in Washington.

However, that doesn't mean that we have gotten along well. Mylio, I don't know, I have to tell you, and give you a little background.

Mylio is by ethnic background a Croatian, and a Croatian is sort of a poor cousin to a Pole, and that is what Croatians really are.

Mylio is very sensitive, very, very sensitive about being Croatian, and he gets very upset with me if I happen to tell a story that touches on Croatians and their background and culture and history.

But I can't resist telling you the story about the two Croatians who last winter, in the coldest of winter, decided they were going to go out ice fishing.

So these two Croatians, I think this was near Akron, Ohio, wasn't it, Mylio, they went out, and they cut this hole in the ice, and they had their lines and hooks out, and they put the bait on the hooks, and they dropped them into the water. One of the Croatians was a very devout gentleman, very, very devout, very religious, and he thought he heard a voice. He thought it was the Lord speaking to him to give him instructions on fishing.

He said to his friend, "I thought I heard a voice."

The other Croatian said, "I didn't hear anything."

A moment later, the gentleman that heard the voice said I heard the voice again. It said, "Cease your fishing."

And he turned to his friend and he said, "I think the Lord is talking to us."

He said, "I didn't hear anything."

He said, "Listen."

They both listened a moment, and that voice came on and said, "Cease your fishing."

And our Croatian friend said, "Lord, Lord, is that you talking to me?"

The voice came back and said, "No, this isn't the Lord, this is the owner of the ice rink."

Thank you, Mylio.

The two things I wanted to share with you just briefly today have to deal directly with the VA and with a couple of current issues that we face in keeping in mind the fact that we have here at The American Legion Convention the leaders of our veterans communities across the country.

And I would like to bring you up to date on a couple of issues so that when you are back home reporting to your Post and you're checking across your states and your districts and your home areas, that you will be able to report on just what we face.

One is a problem with our budget.

And I am going to try to discuss that in a non-bureaucratic fashion, which isn't easy, because frankly our budget is locked into a whole bureaucratic and governmental impasse.

Basically what we face is that under the law, if Congress doesn't pass a budget covering the federal government by the first of October, they automatically trigger a procedure whereby there are across-the-board budget cuts for almost every department and agency of the government, and the VA is only partially exempt. These budget cuts require that people be laid off until such time as Congress finally passes a budget.

Now, the VA is basically exempt from the medical side, since under the law this across-the-board cut could only be two percent on our medical side. So we are going to be able to manage our VA medical system without any layoffs of personnel that relate directing to medical care. And we will work that one out.

However, on the other side of the coin, the people who handle our benefits, our mortgage loans and all the other assorted VA programs, the national cemetery system and so

on, if we get to October 1st and the Congress hasn't approved the budget, there will have to be selective layoffs subject to the budget situation.

Under the law, we have been required to send our employees notices, 30-day advance notice of this possibility. We hope to avoid it.

It's my personal opinion that the Congress won't be so irresponsible as to go past October 1st and not give us a budget. Give us, meaning the entire federal government, a budget. But I've been surprised before and I've been wrong before, so I have my fingers crossed. I'm hoping for the best, but just in case this worse scenario develops that we could not have a budget by October 1st, by the second week of October there would have to be some selective layoffs. I mention that only because it's a fact of life. It's an issue that we have had to face; other entities in government face it as well.

We will get by on the medical side, but we will have problems with personnel handling benefits, and many of our other programs.

I want you to know that we are going to do everything we can, and make this as minimal a problem as possible. I honestly don't believe that the Congress will go home in mid October for an election campaign and not have passed the federal budget. I think common sense and practicality would dictate that, but in the eventuality that the impasse does continue, and the Congress doesn't act on the budget, we will have to follow the law and adjust accordingly.

The other issue I would like to bring you ladies and gentlemen up to date on is the role we play and where we stand in providing medical care backup to the military in case there are casualties because of the buildup in the Middle East.

Under the law, the VA is a backup medical entity for military medicine, and we are in total coordination with the Department of Defense. We have made available to them a list of all of our medical centers, the space availability, the areas of specialty of different surgery and treatment facilities that we have, and we are ready, willing and able to perform that backup role should casualties develop. It's one of the responsibilities that we have. It's a responsibility in this case that we need willingly and effectively, and that I hope we don't have to do it.

In fact, my personal opinion is that the diplomacy that we are pursuing and the show of strength that we have demonstrated will in fact sober up the Iraqi dictator and will create a situation where we will, of necessity, withdraw from Kuwait, and that the confrontation that would otherwise develop can be avoided insofar as the hot war situation is concerned.

We have never seen this, since the end of World War II, a situation where almost the entire world is united behind American leadership as they are at the present time, as they stand down that dictator in the Middle East. And it's an example of what happens when America provides leadership.

There are some countries in the world who are envious of us; other countries in the world have historic complaints about us, but when the world is facing a major challenge, the United States leads and the world falls in line.

One of the reasons they do is because we at this time have the most effective dedicated, well-trained, spirited military team in the world.

It's a great tribute to our country, that when we recognize the further political and unacceptability of the draft in the 70's, that we were able to switch to an all-volunteer military and do so and retain the effectiveness that the American military has. And I don't think any group of people more than veterans would appreciate and understand the tremendous effectiveness and the tremendous responsibility of the young men and women apparently serving in our Armed Services, especially those who have been committed to Saudi Arabia and the other regions there in the Persian Gulf in the Middle East.

They are great young men and women. They are well trained. They are disciplined. They are effective. They are well equipped and they are a tremendous attribute to our country and the virtues for which we stand and the freedoms for which we stand.

And it is my hope that we can, with the leadership the President has provided, stand down this threat.

It's amazing the degree of international support that we have. There are only, depending on how you count, three countries that I know of who are lined up on the side of Saddam

Hussein. The rest of the world is either sitting there quietly, or actively supporting us. And I think that cohesiveness, that determination will prevail.

One last comment and that is, that six months ago, a year ago, two years ago, we were always ready and prepared to provide this tremendous demonstration of military skill, military expertise, but if the Congress had had its way in gutting the American military budget, our defense budget, if this crisis had come upon us a year from now rather than just now after Congress had followed through with the proposals most advocated to rip the military budget apart, we would not have been able to respond.

There is a very fascinating lesson here. There is also a fascinating sense of timing. This crisis, as dangerous and delicate as it is, has demonstrated the fundamental value of being strong enough to keep the peace.

History shows that wars start by miscalculation. And the reason the world could well go on to a new long era of peace, is because the United States has remained strong.

Now, all of us in our day, the World War I Veterans who might be here, the World War II Veterans, the Korean War Veterans, the Vietnam era Veterans, we all in our day were called to the Service to protect our liberties and our freedoms, our way of life, but also that of countries around the world. And we did so in the fashion that was uniquely American. It had the American spirit, the American heart, and we are prepared to do it now. And because we are prepared, this is going to be a better and safer world. That's the contribution that we are getting from our young men and women in the Service today.

So I commend you, all of you, The American Legion, for the constant support and understanding that you have given our current military.

I commend you for understanding the logical role that America has to play as the leader of the free world, and I commend you also at this time for being voices of sanity and understanding while our nation faces an extraordinary challenge from the less than stable military dictator.

So thank you for all the work you do daily for veterans. Thank you for your leadership role in the world of veterans.

I thank you especially for being the steadfast loyal understanding citizens that you are. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Secretary Derwinski, I want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule in coming to speak to our Convention, and I would like to present to you The American Legion Official History Book, and I hope you will put that in your office and keep it out there and let the world know that we are back here, we're working. Let's give the Secretary of The American Legion a thank you.

The Chair recognizes Eugene Lindquist of Minnesota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Children and Youth, for the purpose of making a report.

Report Of The Convention Committee On Children & Youth Eugene V. Lindquist (MN), Chairman

Thank you very much, Miles. Delegates to this 72nd National Convention, the Convention on Children & Youth met at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, August 26, 1990, in Room 202 at the Convention Center. The meeting was organized by electing delegate Eugene V. Lindquist of Minnesota as Chairman and delegate Elmer Fuhrhop of Ohio as Secretary. In attendance were 45 delegates along with 16 guests. The delegates agreed upon the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

In the 90's the National Commission on Children & Youth will be faced with many new and challenging problems. Many of these areas will require extensive and deliberate research to help find meaningful and productive solutions. The answers do not come easy. Issues never dreamed of in the first ten years of our existence are now before us. They must be recognized and dealt with for the sake of our children. They cannot be ignored for the sake of our Nation. One of those issues that seems to be growing in intensity in America today is cults.

The cult movement of the sixties has expanded to the point where today there are approximately 5,000 cults in existence in the United States. They vary in membership from a

few people to tens of thousands. Some are benign in nature, others are destructive; but they all have an impact on the family unit. The term destructive is used to single out those groups where leadership control is so strong that the family unit is usually broken up and children are taken away from natural parents at the will of the leader. This fact alone runs contrary to the basic principles upon which this organization was founded. Let me assure this Convention body that your Children & Youth Commission, as of this National Convention, is laying the groundwork for an intensive and prolific program of education concerning this growing threat to the well-being of our children.

During the 1989-90 program year, we were only able to get 58 percent of our Posts to report to National on the Consolidated Post Report Form. Even with this low percent, listen to the figures we are proud to report: Total expenditures for The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary was \$45,656,013. When we add this to all other income and expenditures for the Departments and our affiliates, we arrive at the astounding figure of over \$46.5 million. Just think, Legionnaires, we could nearly double this figure if every Post submitted an annual report. Your National Commission is studying methods to increase this percentage in the years to come. In the meantime, we thank you for all your continued support and emphasis.

Each year, during the past four years we have discussed in our Commission the reality of keeping the same points of emphasis from year to year. Our current areas have been at the core of our program for at least this long and possibly they will be there for many years to come. As we scan this list, we cannot imagine any areas affecting our youth today that need more attention than these. Having stressed these areas for many years, we have seen success and evidence of positive change. We have grown in outreach and expertise. The total strength of our annual program revolves around the following four major areas:

Teenage Suicide: Over 5,000 children take their own life each year. Our program of recognizing the "Warning Signs" has saved many lives.

Missing Children: Educating our children about dealing with strangers and strange people has certainly saved many children from unfortunate and even life threatening situations.

Drug Abuse: This is the nation's number one problem! We cannot afford not to be involved. The children of this nation need adults like us to lead the way and say, "You Can Say No To Drugs."

Child Safety: More children lose their lives from accidents each year than from any other cause. This program has room to grow and we think you will see our involvement expand tremendously in the months and years to come.

In addition to our main areas of concern, we also have many fine programs that offer diverse avenues for service; i.e., Halloween Safety, Financial Assistance, Family Week and others.

As a Director on the Child Welfare Foundation Board, I would be remiss if I did not report to you the tremendous year we are having for the thousands of children we serve. For the 1990-91 year we will spend over \$300,000 for grants that are really making a positive difference for the children of this Nation. Many National leaders in children programming have seen the fruits of our investments and our files are bursting with letters of appreciation and support. Your Child Welfare Foundation is stronger and growing stronger. For our President, Udie Grant and all Directors of our Board and liaison groups, please accept our heartfelt thanks. You are making it happen and we can't do it without your help.

Through our Convention Committee, we strive to stay current with the needs of our youth, and, therefore, we offer today for your consideration the following important and timely resolutions:

Resolution No. 589 Subject: Reaffirming Immunization Program

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that there is no place in civilized society for communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There are today vaccines and other specific medical treatment to protect children against communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There exists today in our country areas with extremely low levels of immunization against certain childhood diseases that may break out in epidemic proportions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That it reaffirms its position of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccine to combat communicable diseases; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local Posts of The American Legion provide leadership and support to stimulate local treatment and immunization programs so that children in every community may achieve the fullest protection against communicable diseases; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That sufficient federal and state funds be provided so that medically indigent children may be afforded an opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and immunization against all communicable diseases.

Resolution No. 590 Subject: Violence and Vandalism in the Schools

WHEREAS, Juveniles account for approximately 35 percent of our population and account for better than 50 percent of serious crimes as reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports; and

WHEREAS, Numerous elementary schools nationwide are experiencing serious, violent acts of crime of criminal damage; and

WHEREAS, Juveniles are carrying out their acts into their immediate home environment with emphasis to government-support housing projects; and

WHEREAS, Government-supported institutions, specifically schools and housing, spend in excess of \$500 million for acts of vandalism; and

WHEREAS, The impact of violence and vandalism affects the morale of students, teachers, administrators, and parents; impedes educational advancement; and fosters and perpetuates patterns of deviancy; and

WHEREAS, Violence and vandalism in the nation's institutions result in enormous loss of educational and domestic resources and human potential, and contribute to the high rates of juvenile delinquency within the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That school boards and state education agencies develop a balanced and effective program, and provide community support to reduce and prevent violence and vandalism in educational institutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local law enforcement implement effective programs for the amelioration of juvenile delinquency in coordination with the Department of Education, community citizenry and other agencies with the criminal justice system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local Posts urge and assist those in the educational community and criminal justice system to join together in efforts to reduce the development and prevailing patterns of juvenile delinquency in school and our communities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States enact legislation through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a grant program to assist those public institutions and criminal justice agencies in bearing the financial burden to implementing pro-active delinquency prevention programs.

Resolution No. 588 Subject: Children In Pornographic Literature

WHEREAS, The very future of our country is being threatened by individuals who would use children in pornographic magazines and films; and

WHEREAS, National crime reports reveal that there is strong correlation between those who read pornographic magazines and those who commit related crimes such as rape, incest, molestation, child abuse and even murder; and

WHEREAS, The use of children as subjects in the production of pornographic materials has a devastating effect upon these innocent children, which is a disgrace to our society; and

WHEREAS, Existing laws dealing with those who produce, sell, and distribute pornographic materials are often weak and/or inadequate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That state legislatures be encouraged to evaluate and make appropriate improvements in existing laws aimed at those adult individuals involved in the child pornography business; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the strengthening of existing federal legislation by the United States Congress to make penalties severe enough to eliminate the production, dis-

tribution and sale of materials that use children in sexually explicit scenes, and we urge the Congress to provide adequate funding, when necessary, to accomplish these goals.

Resolution No. 591 Subject: Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic and Obscene Literature

WHEREAS, Since 1960, The American Legion has maintained a position of complete opposition to the production and sale or distribution of pornographic or obscene materials to children 17 years and under; and

WHEREAS, Present laws forbid the importation of such materials from foreign countries, interstate trafficking, the use of the United States Mail, and use over public radio and television; and

WHEREAS, Any attempt to eliminate such protective laws from state and/or federal criminal codes would have a negative impact on our youth and society in general; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States Congress be made aware of our concern through proper legislative channels.

Resolution No. 592 Subject: National Family Week

WHEREAS, One of the principles guiding The American Legion's Children & Youth program is to maintain the integrity of the family homes; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of strengthening family life; and

WHEREAS, The family is the center of our affections and the foundation of our American society; and

WHEREAS, No institution can take the family's place in giving meaning to human life and stability in our society; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That it urges the President of the United States and the Congress to establish "National Family Week" during the Thanksgiving holiday week as an annual observance.

Resolution No. 593 Subject: School Nutrition Program

WHEREAS, There has been an expression of concern by health authorities and various national organizations with an interest in the status of proper nutrition among young people; and

WHEREAS, The Federal School Lunch Program and other federally supported nutrition programs for children have demonstrated their worth as evidenced by a reduction of health problems, improved performance among children and a reduction in the drop-out rate; and

WHEREAS, There are many school systems throughout the United States that do not participate in the federal/state-supported school lunch program; and

WHEREAS, There are many schools and school systems throughout the United States that have never had a lunch program or have dropped existing lunch programs because of the lack of funding, adequate facilities and the training of personnel; and

WHEREAS, Since 1941, The American Legion has supported the Federal School Lunch Program and other related programs of nutrition for children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That the Congress of the United States be urged to appropriate sufficient funds for school nutrition programs to reflect the increased cost of food and to provide for needed facilities and trained personnel for the purpose of conducting an adequate school lunch program.

Resolution No. 594 Subject: Catastrophic Illness Among Children

WHEREAS, There is an ever-widening crisis in many states relating to the delivery and accessibility of health care and medical treatment to the children of this country; and

WHEREAS, Historically, it has always been The American Legion's position that all

children should have adequate health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being; and

WHEREAS, Several applications have been received by the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division from Departments requesting Temporary Financial Assistance for needy medical cases; and

WHEREAS, Many children are not receiving medical treatment because their families have been unable to afford the cost of the catastrophic illness to one of their children, and

WHEREAS, Many of these families have hospitalization insurance and even major medical insurance and yet they cannot meet the cost of a major illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That it reaffirms its position inurging the federal and state governments to enact the necessary legislation to assist, financially, those individual families faced by the catastrophic illness of one of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in lieu of a better approach, the present federal Crippled Children's program be expanded to include catastrophic illness.

Resolution No. 595 Subject: Trafficking Prevention

WHEREAS, The illegal trafficking of drugs into the United States is one of the greatest threats to the welfare and safety of our citizens, particularly our youth; and

WHEREAS, The enemies of our Nation and way of life hope to destroy us from within by debilitating our most precious resource for the future, our youth; and

WHEREAS, The economic and social costs of drug abuse annually exceeds the \$100 billion mark; and

WHEREAS, The efforts to halt the entry of such illegal drugs may be seen as a war of will and resources—a war that at present we are not winning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the President and Congress of the United States to fully support with adequate funding all border state, federal and military drug trafficking presentation programs through which our children and youth might secure a more stable and healthy future.

Resolution No. 596 Subject: Destructive Cults

WHEREAS, There are in America today approximately 5,000 cults whose memberships vary from a few people to tens of thousands; and

WHEREAS, Many of the cults are benign in nature while other are considered destructive; and

WHEREAS, Destructive cults are defined as those groups where leadership control is so strong that the traditional family unit is broken up; and

WHEREAS, Destructive cults use systematic, manipulative techniques of thought reform or mind control to obtain followers and constrict their thoughts and actions; and

WHEREAS, These techniques are imposed without the person's fore-knowledge or volition and produce observable changes in the individual's autonomy, thoughts and actions; and

WHEREAS, These cults may promise enlightenment and positive growth, but hide their true intent to exploit and enslave its members through an all powerful leadership and a totalistic ideology; and

WHEREAS, A destructive cult has no real concern for the welfare, freedom or individuality of its members; and

WHEREAS, They set themselves above society by creating their own values with no regard for society's laws, ethics or morals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That it implement, through its National Commission on Children & Youth, an educational program and appropriate materials about the subject of destructive cults; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this program and materials be presented to, and distributed through, our Posts at the local level in cooperation with other organizations and agencies whose position on destructive cults is in concert with this mandate.

Resolution No. 597 Subject: Smokeless Tobacco

WHEREAS, There are about 12 million smokeless tobacco users in the United States, three million of which are under 21 years old; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, the prevalences of smokeless tobacco use among males 17 to 19 years old between 1970 and 1986 increased ten fold; and

WHEREAS, The average age for youth to start using tobacco is ten years and that an alarming number of youngsters will have used smokeless tobacco for five (5) to eight (8) years before graduating from high school; and

WHEREAS, The negative health affects, both short and long range, can be documented concerning the use of smokeless tobacco products by our youngsters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That we applaud and, where possible, cooperate with those national and local organizations who believe in strict standards regarding the use of smokeless tobacco by minors.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion at all levels enlist the support of adult authority figures such as parents, teachers, youth leaders, coaches and others to stress the negative side of smokeless tobacco use by children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commission on Children & Youth begin immediately to prepare educational materials for elementary and secondary education level students concerning the use of smokeless tobacco.

REJECTED RESOLUTIONS**Resolution No. 79 (NC) Guardian Ad Litem Program (CASA/GAL)****Resolution No. 188 (PA) School Truancy**

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report, and I move for its adoption.

... The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously, and the Report of the Children & Youth Commission was adopted.

GARLAND MURPHY AWARD

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CAOUETTE: At this time it is appropriate to announce the winner of the Garland Murphy Award for 1990. Named for the man who was instrumental in the establishment of the Child Welfare Foundation. The award is given to the Department that has done the most outstanding work for the Child Welfare Foundation during the past program year.

The 1990 winner of the award is the Department of Minnesota.

The award has already been presented to the Department of Minnesota.

RALPH T. O'NEIL EDUCATION TROPHY

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CAOUETTE: At this time I would like to announce the winners of two awards presented by the Americanism Commission.

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Award is given annually to the Department within the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in using The American Legion School Medal Program.

This year's winner is the Department of Florida.

The Department of Florida has already been presented with their award.

THE FRANK BELGRANO, JR. AWARD

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CAOUETTE: The Frank Belgrano, Jr. Award is given annually to the Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the 12-month period beginning August 1st, to the Boy Scouts of America program.

This year's winner is the Department of Maryland.
The Department of Maryland has been presented with their award.

MESSAGE TO THE CONVENTION

From

**Vahan Dukmejian, National President
The Society of American Legion Founders**

As we are all aware, the relentless march of time has thinned the ranks of The Society of American Legion Founders, Ltd.

It is especially saddening to me that one of the founders had looked forward to this occasion with great anticipation, but is unable to be with us today.

He is Vahan Dukmejian, President of the Society.

Vahan asked me to read some remarks to you about The Society of American Legion Founders. Vahan says:

"We of The Society of American Legion Founders are delighted to greet you this afternoon. Although our organization is becoming smaller, now with only eight members, we remain dedicated with all our strength to those principles which established this great organization of The American Legion.

"Today there are many struggles in which we three million plus members are engaged. Our Veteran population must continue to receive the care and benefits to which they were promised and entitled when they entered the Service. We have seen over the years how our organization has kept this a high priority, not allowing the Veteran or the family to be forgotten.

"We see now a small minority of Americans who think they can treat our country and our great American Flag with disrespect. No doubt they lack the understanding for which we fought on the battlefields during World War I and World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Probably they will never know the smell of fear and blood, see the fires and tremendous damage, hear the screams and explosions. We did not have fun in these battles. We fought in them for the principles of Americanism, liberty and freedom. But the freedom for which we fought wasn't the freedom to burn the American Flag.

"Back in 1919, at the birth of the organization, we Founders were confident that this new Veterans' organization would help preserve veterans rights and American values we hold today. It makes me very proud to see over these seventy-one years our continued concern for our Nation's children, for those hit by natural disaster, and for a strong national defense.

"You delegates from the various Departments of The American Legion have understood the need for strong statements and have passed solid resolutions reflecting the position of our membership, a membership which continues to grow. I do so wish that I could be with you here today in the city of our National Headquarters on this occasion. Please continue to make the remaining eight members of The American Legion Founders proud to be members of the greatest Veterans organization in the world."

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Even though we don't have the President with us, of the Founders, we do have one of the Founders with us today, and it is Mr. George Bentley from Minnesota. Let's give him a warm welcome.

GEORGE BENTLEY American Legion Founder

Hi folks.

What a Convention. To all the National Officers, all their employees, the Legionnaires, all the Auxiliary, and all my friends, greetings from the Founders of The American Legion.

I am just going to take two minutes. Well, less than that, to give you an idea of what the Legion is all about.

Now when they come up with this, and it has been 72 years since the war was over, at least that much, but I am going to give you a few details that are probably not in the book.

Now The American Legion originally was an idea of Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt. He called together 19 other officers, and they were still in the Service. But they met in February of 1919.

So when they got through, they decided to hold a regular caucus in Paris in March. I think the dates were 1919. The result was that at least 475 were registered. But there were probably hundreds more. But they didn't register, because don't forget, these men were still in the Service, and there were lots more just like I was. We attended the caucus, too. And a lot of them were AWOL just to attend. Of course, I wasn't AWOL, myself. But they didn't want to register to let people know where they were, of course, because they were AWOL.

So when they got through with the caucus after three days, they brought the recommendations back to St. Louis.

I might tell you, Colonel Roosevelt didn't attend the caucus. He came back to St. Louis where he organized another caucus, known as the St. Louis caucus in May of 1919, so he really wasn't present there. But then there were approximately, probably 1,000 of them there at the St. Louis caucus. And so two months later there were maybe 1500, maybe 2,000. I'm not sure. I wasn't back home here at that time, so I didn't know.

Of course, Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt was interested in formation of The Legion. They wanted him to be the first Commander.

Three days thereafter, they kept talking to him, but he wouldn't take it. And then finally an old chairman got up, he must have been with the Spanish-American War as a veteran and he said, "I knew Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt's father in the Spanish-American War, and I know I can get him." But Roosevelt said, "No. I mean no."

And so, Roosevelt did not take it and he was not the first Commander of The American Legion.

He said, and I don't know whether it is in the book or not, but he said, "I am going into politics in New York State when I get through here, and we don't want any politics in The American Legion."

And you know even now today, you will never find The American Legion endorsing any political candidate.

Thank you so much.

I will see you down in Phoenix, Arizona next year. I intend to be there.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We only have eight Founders left, and George is one of them. Let's stand up and give him a big hand.

When we speak of fellow veterans, we tend to think of Americans. But this brotherhood also includes countless men and women of allied nations who have served in defense of democracy. Our next guest is a Veteran of the Canadian Army and served in Germany and Cypress. Today he is an Area Supervisor for the Warehousing Company he has worked for since 1966.

This man has been active in Veterans and community service in Canada for many years. He started a Dominion Sports Program in 1984 that has grown steadily.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to Indianapolis the newly elected Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Mr. Bob Cassels.

R. R. "BOB" CASSELS
Dominion President
Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

National Commander Miles Epling, head table guests, Members of The American Legion, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to you from the members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

As a point of interest, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada this year are celebrating their 150th Anniversary. They were incorporated in 1840, and this is now our 150th year.

This past week, we held our National Convention in the capital City of Ottawa. We dealt with many resolutions pertaining to the veterans and their dependents. These are now being drafted to be sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs for Canada.

Just to enlighten you on some of the things we are doing for the veterans in Canada, and in British Columbia, the Army, Navy and Air Force along with the Royal Canadian Legion and the Department of Veterans Affairs have opened the Veterans Manor for veterans who have no place to live but in the streets and rundown hotels. They now have a place to call home.

In Saskatchewan, a van was purchased to transport the veterans back and forth from the hospital to their residence at a cost of \$60,000.

In January, 1990 we saw the opening of the Veterans Manor along the lines of one in British Columbia. We have there a veteran that came to them with nothing. In checking, it was found that he decided to have his VA check deposited directly to a bank account. He was not aware that he had signed it at the time, did not remember. Later they found relatives that he had not seen for years. They were then reunited.

All of this was made possible by the joint efforts of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Korean War Veterans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In Ontario, my home province, one unit built a food bank on their own property at a cost of \$250,000 to serve the area of Barren, Ontario. The same unit in that same year gave \$360 to the hospital for updating so they could look after the people of Barren.

In the City of Toronto, Sunnybrook Hospital, Veterans Hospital, we have units in Toronto that go and they went over there, and they found out they had no equipment so we have donated two large barbecues, and two 48-inch TV's. We pay the cable hookup for that, and we maintain it, and pay the monthly costs.

Some of the veterans in the hospital have no arms, and they can't write. So they requested a computer, so they could put a pencil in their mouth and work the computer, and then run their letters off. We supplied them with a computer.

We also have a youth program that has been running since 1972 at a military college in Kingston, Ontario. This year it's going to go coed, and we will have quite a few there, and it should be interesting for the people that run this, because it is going to be coed.

I had the privilege the other day to stand beside the reviewing stand and watch the parade. I was impressed. The parade last six and a half hours and had some 14,000 people participating.

I congratulate you on that parade, the organizers and the people in it. It was a very fine parade. I see on Page 29 of your brochure of the efforts you are making to protect your Flag from desecration. We of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans support you in this matter. We feel it is a national emblem of your country, for which many of your members gave their lives.

There are a few people I would like to thank. I would like to thank Colonel Frank Cosca who on November 1st will be 93 years young.

These are the people who have been looking after me since I arrived here on Saturday in making sure I was in places I was supposed to be and got me up very early in the morning. Jim and Stella Ballentine, John and Elizabeth Denny. I would like to thank them very much for that.

Miles, at this time I would like to present a gift to you on behalf of myself and our association.

... At this time National Commander Epling was given a picture by Bob Cassels.

PRESIDENT CASSELS: This copy of the painting was done by a Benjamin Chi Chi. He was born in Bologna, Toronto, Canada. Benjamin Chi Chi taught himself to paint when he was two months old, and he lost track of his mother.

One reason behind his success as a painter was his ambition to be reunited with her. He was a prominent member of the second generation of woodland Indian painters and native art that began in the early 1960's, and since has become one of the important art schools in Canada.

Unlike many of his compatriots, he painted in a style influenced by modern abstracts.

While most of the young woodland Indian artists were content to follow the style of the movement's founder, Norville Resau in depicting his painting, Chi Chi pursued a more economical graphic style in reduction of lines and images more in keeping with the mainstream of international modern art. Benjamin Chi Chi died at the young age of 32.

Thank you very much, and I hope your deliberations for your Convention are successful.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I would like on behalf of The American Legion to present you The American Legion History as a small gift for you to take back home with you.

PRESIDENT CASSELS: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Our next guest also represents our neighbors and long-time allies to the north. He is the new Dominion President, the Royal Canadian Legion, my counterpart in that great veterans organization.

A Royal Navy Veteran of World War II, he joined the great War Veterans Association in 1946 and became a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in 1949. He has held many important positions within his organization, actively pressing for improved veterans benefits and programs.

Please join me in welcoming Fred Williams to our Convention.

FRED WILLIAMS Dominion President The Royal Canadian Legion

Thank you, National Commander. Distinguished guests, and fellow war veterans, it is a real pleasure for me to address you again and to bring greetings from your comrades in arms all across Canada.

My association with American Servicemen started a number of years ago, actually in 1940, when we were in Bermuda, and the American Navy was stationed there.

I made quite a number of friends.

We were also in Panama City when Pearl Harbor was attacked and remained in the Pacific to work closely with the U.S. Navy in picking up enemy vessels who were scuttling them to leave American ports before being captured. Many of them were not successful. We picked up 43.

The USS Trenton was part of our task force.

My home is in Newfoundland, and thousands of American Servicemen went through our port. Many stayed and strong and lasting friendships were made during those years.

I also served on the U.S. Bases in Bremen in '47 and '48 in the Motor Maintenance Division. You can see that my relations with veterans in the U.S. forces goes back a goodly number of years.

More recently, I had a very nice contact. I was invited to Russia by the Russian government through the Legion and the structure of the Legion. I won't go into how that happened. That is another story.

I was coming out of a hotel, and I heard some music. The music was lively and refreshing, and I said, I don't know where it is coming from but I have to go out and find out. I went out the door. I didn't know who the lady was, but there and then Dorothy Hill was there, and I have listened to Americans say how great American music is. Well, folks, you can listen to a Canadian now telling you how great that band was. They were terrific.

There weren't only Russians there, there were Japanese and Germans and tourists in Moscow. And Moscow is drab and dreary, but the U.S. Band made for a real lively session for two or three nights. I thanked them for being there.

A little more serious for a moment. Perestroika and Glasnost are now household words. The Russian government has done such a great propaganda job on all aspects of disarmament.

ment that many normally sane people and organizations have been screaming for the world to disarm. They are firmly convinced that the complete reduction in armaments is the way to go. I wonder what they are thinking now that it has been proven to us that there is always some mad man, I should say mad men willing and able to subjugate other nations to their will.

We of the free world must not be lulled into a false sense of security that would not only put other free countries at risk, but even place our North American country in danger.

Economics, and economics only have forced the U.S.S.R. to the present armed policy. But there are other countries more willing to take their place. The Saddam Husseins are bound galore in the world, and the simple motto of the Boy Scouts is just as applicable today as any time in history—Be Prepared.

U.S. and other countries to a lesser extent are very close to being embroiled in another shooting war which can only bring suffering and hardship to hundreds of thousands of innocent people. Nevertheless, if Saddam Hussein is not stopped now, then the total number of people who will suffer will eventually double and triple until once again, millions will be part of the death toll, and millions of others will suffer needless injuries.

Keep your country strong and prepared at all times.

The Royal Canadian Legion in Canada and The American Legion both have the same goals, a service to war veterans and dependents is our priority. To this end, we shall continue to have our governments keep veterans' benefits always in the forefront and legislation upgraded to meet today's needs.

I have a little note put down here, I read it in the newspaper, and I heard on the radio and different media about the Legion being a dying organization. My reply was, and excuse the language—dying be damned. We are a strong vibrant organization. We in Canada have increased our membership in spite of the dooms day prophets. You have done the same thing.

Your commitment and our commitment to growth of Canada and U.S. Boy Scouts, Air Cadets, you name it, and we are into it. And you take the Legion out of this North American continent, and the youth of this country will suffer very dramatically.

With the expertise that we have in training kids is beyond belief.

Lastly, keep up the good work, and may this Convention be successful.

Do not forget that if we have another shooting war, it will be us that will be the spokesmen on behalf of a new group of war veterans who will need our help and the experience in dealing with our respective goals.

Thank you very much for having me here.

PRESENTATION

I have a small gift for your National Commander. We usually seem to forget that there are some women behind us war veterans, so for your wife, there is a Legion pendant, which she can wear proudly. It is our poppy on a chain, and thank you once again for having me and my wife. She is sitting down here wondering how long I am going to speak.

Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We of The American Legion thank you very much for coming and being with us, and I would like to present you The American Legion History and a small gift. And a thank you for all you do for the veterans.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Our next guest representing the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen for the Republic of China is another example of veterans taking care of their own.

His military career spanned more than 40 years, serving with distinction as Commandant, Chinese Army Academy; Commander, 8th Army Corps; and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Army General Headquarters.

Please join with me in giving Lieutenant General Chu Chih-yuan of Taiwan a warm Legionnaire's welcome.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHU CHIH-YUAN
Vice Chairman Vocational Assistance Commission
For Retired Servicemen, Republic of China

Lietutenant General Chu Chih-yuan addressed the delegation through an interpreter as follows:

National Commander Epling, Honorable Guests, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to attend and address this Opening Ceremony of the 1990 Annual National Convention of The American Legion. On behalf of General Hsu Li-nung, Chairman of VACRS and the veterans of the Republic of China, I wish to extend to all of you our sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations.

In November last year, at General Hsu's invitation, National Commander and Mrs. Epling visited the Republic of China. Their visit was most successful. We were deeply impressed with the true friendship shown by National Commander and Mrs. Epling. It is a great pleasure for me to be invited to attend your National Convention at this time to renew old friendships and to meet all delegates.

This Convention is, in itself, a significant gathering of distinguished veterans. You have all represented your country in various military activities and are now here to voice your support for a just and lasting world peace. No one knows the horrors of war and disruption of civilization caused by war and strife more than the soldiers; therefore, it is for those of us who have fought for our countries to explain to the citizenry the necessity of fostering universal brotherhood among nations to usher in an era of harmony.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to explain the present general situation of the Chinese Communists. The current world situation is very confused and complicated. The different Communist regimes of Eastern Europe have perished one by one. The Soviet Communists agreed by resolution to give up monolithic party leadership in favor of a multiparty system. These developments have dealt a severe blow to the Chinese Communist regime, especially at a time when the Soviet Communists have given up the road of Communist monolithic leadership. Under the constraints of the "Four Insistences" and the demand of absolute leadership by the Communist Party, the democratic movement on the Chinese mainland faces great difficulties at present.

The situation on mainland China is different from that of Eastern Europe. The developmental background of the Chinese Communist's current control and the democratic strength are at wide variance from the situation in Europe and the Soviet Union. There are many workers and farmers in support of the democratic reform of Europe and the Soviet Union, and reform pressures come from below and above. In addition, the opposition parties and the Communist leadership are able to voice support for reforms.

From the time of the "Ming Fang" ("Let 100 flowers bloom and 100 schools of thought contend" in 1957) on the Chinese mainland through the democratic movements within the last three years, all movements have been led by students, and the intellectuals have played major roles in the confrontation. The masses of workers and farmers, who have little sense of democracy, played the passive roles, and, therefore, great strength in opposition to the Communist Party was difficult to muster. However, once the Chinese Communist power structure changes, the power struggle will be elevated to a high level. Loss of military control, as well as the further expansion of democratic reforms of Europe and the Soviet Union, will produce within a short period of time a widespread democratic movement in the Chinese Mainland, as did our Revolution in Wuchang in 1911.

The Chinese Communist military strength still constitutes a serious threat to the security of the Republic of China on Taiwan, Pescadores, Kinmen, and Matsu. After the 5th Plenum of the 13th Chinese Communist Convention, Teng Hsiao-ping emphasized in the Military Committee Conference on November 11, 1989 that two wars are possible: One with Vietnam and the other with Taiwan. After the democratic movement in June, 1989, Chian Tse-min and Li Peng declared several times at press conferences and conversations that they absolutely would not rule out the use of force for the incorporation of Taiwan into the Communist regime.

The present strategy of the Chinese Communists toward the Republic of China is to

disguise war as peace, while using a smiling-face unification offensive to weaken our spiritual will and attract Taiwan capital to improve their economy. On the other hand, they will continue to strengthen their armed forces preparedness, with exercises and training, deploy troops along the seacoast, and build up their reserve strength to increase overall War Area capabilities. These actions constitute a serious threat to the Republic of China on Taiwan.

As you know, the Chinese Communists have been attempting to modernize their armed forces with U.S. technology. Many nations in the Far East are concerned that, once the Chinese Communists have obtained modern weapons from the West, the weapons will be aimed, not at the Soviet Union, but rather at the free nations in Asia.

For many years, VACRS and The American Legion have maintained a close and cordial relationship, based on the common ideals of veterans' welfare, brotherhood, peace, and social stability.

The AL has consistently passed resolutions in support of the Republic of China, which called for the sale of modern, defensive weapons systems to our country, under the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act. You have also opposed the sale of weapons and technology to the Chinese Communist regime, which could be used against America's friends and allies in the Far East. This support and encouragement is appreciated, and I wish to extend to you my sincere thanks again.

In closing, I give my highest regards for the success of this Convention. I wish each of you the best of health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you.

PRESENTATION

LT. GENERAL CHU CHIH-YUAN: Now, as a token of our appreciation, we would like to present the decoration on behalf of the government to National Commander Miles S. Epling, a certificate and a decoration by the government.

Mr. Miles S. Epling, National Commander, American Legion, has distinguished himself by his outstanding contributions to the promotion of friendly relations between the peoples of the United States of America and the Republic of China, and has strengthened the ties between the Veterans of our two countries.

In appreciation of his meritorious service, National Commander, I present to you the decoration by the government, Department of China in accordance with Article XI of the Armed Forces Decoration Recognition.

And now we would like to present on behalf of the Veterans a plaque to the National Commander.

I present to Mr. Miles S. Epling, National Commander, American Legion, in appreciation of his understanding and contributions to the friendship and cooperation between The American Legion and the Veterans from the Republic of China, August 28, 1990.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, General.

We welcome back to the United States and our 72nd Convention, a man who has dedicated his life to his country.

He graduated from the Korea Military Academy and was commissioned an Army Second Lieutenant in July, 1950.

He rose steadily through the ranks and became the Commanding General of the 28th Infantry Division. Was the R-O-K Army Deputy Chief of Staff, and in 1982 became the Commanding General of the 1st Army until his retirement in 1983.

The Korean Veterans Association has maintained steadfast support of American troops, who served with their host country soldiers to defend Korea from the threat of Communist expansion.

The leader of the Korean Veterans Association assumed his position as President of the Association in 1988.

Please welcome General Joon-Yeol So.

GENERAL JOON-YEOL SO
President, The Korean Veterans Association

... Through an interpreter, General Joon-Yeol So delivered the following message:
 National Commander Epling, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very honored to have been invited to attend your 1990 Annual National Convention. For myself, and on behalf of all members of the Korean Veterans Association, I wish to express our deep appreciation for your continuous promotion of the traditionally amicable ties existing between our two Republics, and to convey our warm greetings and friendship.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. In particular, I take this opportunity to thank the American people and government, from the bottom of my heart, for bravely enduring great losses while the Republic of Korea was at war, and for your unsparing post-war support and cooperation which has greatly contributed to the security and prosperity of my country.

The world is recently experiencing a grand wave of changes. The cold war era appears over and the two Germanies are accelerating peaceful reunification in the East-West détente mood, seeking a new order. Despite such trends, few signs or indications of hopeful changes have been detected in Kim Il-Sung dominated North Korea. North Korea appears headed into an unstable transition period in which Kim Il-Sung may seek to pass power to his son, Kim Jung-Il. It is estimated that it will take a considerable period of time for us to see the winds of freedom blow in North Korea as in East Europe. Until then Washington and Seoul must maintain their present level of joint deterrent strength.

Moreover even though it has been recently confirmed that a plutonium factory near Pyongyang is in operation, North Korea has rejected to sign a Nuclear Safety Agreement and is eager to develop nuclear weapons.

We, of the KVA deeply appreciate the strong support for the security of Korea consistently given by The American Legion and take great pride in our traditional friendship. I look forward to your continued support in furthering the security and mutual interests of our two nations.

Here I would like to add one word concerning the Middle East problem. In these trying times, a majority of nations to include the U.S.S.R., are arising against Iraq for its invasion and occupation of Kuwait. They are acting together fully supporting you in imposed sanctions.

The Republic of Korea, too, is giving its full support. I believe this world of alliance is sending a graphic message to Kim-Il-Sung, a message which clearly states that the world will no longer allow such aggressive acts without retaliation.

In closing, I sincerely hope your Convention will prove a successful and rewarding one. Thank you very, very much.

PRESENTATION

... Through the interpreter, General Joon-Yeol So made the following presentation:

This plaque is presented to Mr. Miles S. Epling, National Commander of The American Legion, in grateful recognition of his dedicated contribution to the support of national security of the Republic of Korea, and the promotion of friendly relations between the two organizations. 28, August, 1990, Indianapolis, Indiana. /s/ General So, Joon-Yeol, Retired, President, The Korean Veterans Association.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: General, we are very pleased to present to you, as we have to your counterparts that were here earlier, the International Amity Award, in grateful recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for your contributions made in the development of national good and comradeship between The American Legion and our wartime allies in Korea and the award is made by The American Legion with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, so it is our pleasure to present this award to you.

GENERAL SO, JOON YEOL: I am very proud to receive this prestigious award and revere it most highly. Our profound thanks to you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much.

The Chair recognizes Herman Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, for the purpose of making a report.

**Report of Committee on
CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Section II (Other Internal Matters)
Herman G. Harrington, (NY), Chairman**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Commander, and my fellow delegates:

Twenty-one resolutions were received and reviewed by the Committee. Of these, two were approved, ten were referred, four were received and recorded and five were rejected.

Rejected

The following resolutions are recommended for rejection:

- Res. No. 96 (MT)**, Battle of Bear Paw Mountains Battlefield to a National Monument.
- Res. No. 191 (PA)**, Veterans Protest
- Res. No. 423 (MO)**, Direct Mail Solicitation Mailings
- Res. No. 279 (DC)**, Associate Membership for Allied Military Forces Veterans
- Res. No. 557 (GA)**, Change of Official Cap Colors for Special Posts in The American Legion

Received and Recorded

The following resolutions are recommended to be received and recorded:

- Res. 4 (NJ)**, United States POW/MIA Postage Stamp
- Res. 128 (IL)**, Korean War Memorial
- Res. 556 (GA)**, Amend IRS Tax Codes to Give Veterans Groups the Rights and Privileges of Charities

Referred

The following resolutions are recommended for referral as noted for further study and report:

- Res. 8 (NE)**, Special Occupational Tax and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987
- Res. 9 (NE)**, Tours and Activities at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery
- Res. 187 (PA)**, Purple Ribbon Campaign
- Res. 291 (MD)**, USS Liberty Bronze Commemorative Plaque
- Res. 422 (MO)**, Tribute to Harry S. Truman

To Convention Commission

- Res. 64 (AL)**, The American Legion National Convention Sites
- Res. 385 (IN)**, Judging for National Color Guard Competition

To Finance Commission

- Res. 470 (ME)**, Korean War Memorial
- Res. 207 (Panama Canal)**, Department Service Officers Reimbursement Expense

To Magazine Commission**Res. 65 (AL), The American Legion Magazine and Membership Renewal Dates****APPROVED**

The following resolutions are recommended for approval:

Res. 281 (DC), Memorial to U.S. Armored Forces

WHEREAS, The 99th Congress enacted Public Law 99-620 on November 6, 1986, which authorizes the various veterans organizations jointly to establish a memorial to honor members of the U.S. Armored Forces who have served in armored ground combat in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Armored Forces Monument honors the dedicated and valorous service of the soliders and marines in armored ground combat in four wars; and

WHEREAS, Funds are needed to complete the monument as scheduled in 1990 on Memorial Drive adjacent to the Visitors Center of Arlington National Cemetery; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That The American Legion continue to encourage all Departments, Posts and Legionnaires to assist in securing funds necessary to construct the Memorial to honor our U.S. Armored Forces.

Res. 602 (Credentials and Internal Affairs), Appreciation to Host Department City

WHEREAS, The 72nd National Convention has been held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990; and

WHEREAS, There has been a warm feeling of cooperation and friendship evidenced by the Legionnaires of Indianapolis, Indiana, the officers of the Convention Corporation and the Department, and by the officials and the people of Indianapolis, Indiana; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, That we express our deep appreciation to the Department of Indiana, Governor Evan Bayh, Mayor William Hudnut, the city officials of Indianapolis, and especially to the National Convention Corporation officers, Gilbert E. Sheeks, President, William W. Greeman, Allan L. Titus, Norman E. Schlemmer, George S. Wilkerson, Robert J. Foster and Kenneth W. Ohl. Around this nucleus has been built the moving force providing for every necessity for a successful, enjoyable Convention.

Past National Commander Earle Cocke, Jr. (GA) brought to the attention of the Committee that consideration is being given to the striking of a new \$1.00 coin that could possibly honor the veterans of this nation and further information on this subject will be discussed during the October 1990 National Executive Committee Meetings.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report, and as a duly registered delegate from the Department of New York, I move for its adoption.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER ANDREW COOPER: Is there a second?

Any discussion?

Microphone No. 6.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE, Alabama: We have no problem with the referral of our resolution, however, we would like for them to recognize it is submitted from Alabama, not Alaska. That was Resolution 64 and Resolution 65.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: I can assure the delegate that that was my error and the report reads as you mentioned. Thank you.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COOPER: The correction is noted and so ordered.

Any other discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Any objections? None.

The motion is carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Chair at this time will recognize William Moore, Jr., of Kentucky, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Chairman of the National Membership and Post Activity Committee for the purpose of making a Membership Report.

**Report of Committee on
CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS Section III
Membership
William R. Moore, Jr. (KY), Chairman**

The Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs Section III (Membership), convened at 9:00 A.M., August 26, 1990, in Convention Center, Room 139, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 46 present elected William O. Moore (KY) Chairman and Michael A. Gombar (CA) Secretary of the Committee.

Two resolutions were assigned to this Committee for consideration, the disposition of which is as follows:

Referred

It is recommended that the following resolutions be referred for further study: Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Res. 25 (MA) Eligibility for transfer of membership

Res. 197 (NY) Expiration date on membership card

Reports were presented on current activity and future strategies for the following topics: DMS, Traditional Membership Acquisition and Retention, New Post Development, Awards and Incentives, and Education and training.

1990 membership stands at 3,018,975 which represents an increase of 5,786 members over final 1989 membership and is 13,305 over last year at this date marking our sixth consecutive year of membership growth and a 42-year membership high.

Membership for 1991 stands at 1,032,898. Forty-three Departments met or exceeded the first target.

Since the printing of this report, the 1990 membership has reached a total of 3,019,664, for a 6,475 increase over the 1989 final figures.

The 1991 membership stands at 1,038,128. The American Legion will continue to be the world's finest and fastest growing Veterans organization in the world thanks to the efforts of each and every one of you and all members of our Legion family.

These figures represent the most Departments ever to reach any target since the membership target dates were implemented many years ago.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report, as a duly registered delegate from the Department of Kentucky, I move for its adoption.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Is there a second?

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying, Aye; those opposed no.

The Report of the Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III, (Membership) is adopted.

BLOOD DRIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: A reminder that the National Convention Blood Drive is in order at this time. The American Legion has conducted a successful National Convention Blood Drive for three years.

Now that we are home in Indianapolis, I trust that you will do your part to help make this the most successful drive yet. I certainly know the importance of blood and I know that your donations during this Convention will provide the gift of life to countless others in Central Indiana long after we are gone.

The collection will continue until 2:30 today and then resume at 8:30 tomorrow morning. Please, do your part in donating a unit of blood.

I would like to call on our National Adjutant Robert Spanogle for announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Thank you, Mr. Commander.

I would like to remind the Delegates to the 72nd Annual Convention that we have a number of exhibits that should be of great interest to you. They are a little bit inconvenient this year, but they are in the Hall, and I would encourage you to all stop by.

Included in these exhibits in our Convention is our Shooting Sports Program and the National Rifle Association is conducting a live shoot of small bores so you can still see if you qualify for the marksman's badge, so you can have a little fun with that.

National Commander, I am sorry to report to you as of this evening, even though the Blood Drive will go another two hours, that we are not reaching our Blood Drive Goal.

And that doesn't say a whole lot in consideration for our National Commander, whose personal testament to you was the number of units he had to have to survive an ambush by the Viet Cong where he became severely disabled.

Let's all give blood to the Blood Drive, thanking the citizens of Marion County, and please try to give what we can to our fellow men and our fellow citizens.

Tomorrow on Wednesday, the Vice President of the United States, J. Danforth Quayle will address the National Convention of The American Legion at 11:45 A.M.

The doors of the Convention Hall will open at 7:45 A.M. and there will be, to our knowledge, as of this announcement, no magnetometers but be prepared in case that they do put magnetometers up, and leave the pocket knives at home for that day.

You should be in your seats by 10:30 A.M., and special passes will be required to enter the platform for that event.

The Western States Caucus will be Wednesday following the recess of this National Convention.

The Commander has asked that the 1991 Department Commanders and Adjutants meet at the recess of the Wednesday's Convention session in Room 23 and then you will be so notified. The Standing Commissions and the National Executive Committee at their Monday session, along with the National Commander have implemented a strategic plan for use to obtain a Constitutional Amendment to protect our Flag against desecration. That strategy depends upon us all, therefore the National Commander has asked for the Commanders and Adjutants of 1990-1991 to meet in Room 123 at the recess of the Wednesday Convention, keeping in mind the Western Caucus is going to meet, and we ask that they come to that room following their caucus.

Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Delegates, please join me in a Salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

... The delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 tomorrow morning.

... At 2:45 P.M., the Convention recessed to reconvene the following day, Wednesday, August 29, 1990 at 9:00 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, August 29, 1990

The Convention was called to order by National Commander Miles S. Epling at 9:00 A.M., EST.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Convention will come to order.

Delegates, stand and right hand salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

... The delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, please uncover and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

... The Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time I would like to call on our National Chaplain, Lynn S. Kearsley of Idaho.

INVOCATION

**Lynn S. Kearsley, Idaho
National Chaplain**

Eternal Father, we are grateful for the preservation of our lives this past night, that we enjoy good health and strength enough to assemble here under the shade of this roof and another session of this 72nd Annual Convention of The American Legion.

Again, we recognize the efforts of those who led this organization. Reward them with continued good health that we might continue to grow in membership and strength to their support and encouragement.

Wilt Thou bless those who participate in this session this morning and give us Legionnaires alert minds, and understanding hearts so that our time here might be profitable to ourselves and to this great Service organization under whose name we are meeting.

Please, God, bless America, and each of us in our individual lives.

Again remember those who are not here because of illness, and let Thy peaceful influence with them cover them, and bless them, according to their needs and Thy will.

Accept our thanks for all we enjoy in this good land, we pray through Jesus, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Convention is now in session.

At this time, I would like to call on the National Adjutant, Bob Spanogle for an announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGL: The Western Caucus of The American Legion will be meeting at the recess of this Convention, following today's session on this floor.

National Commander Epling has called a meeting of the 1990-1991 Commanders and Adjutants on the recess of this Convention in Room 123.

The Vice President's address will be at 11:45 A.M. You should be in your seats at 10:00 A.M.

Special passes will be required for admission to the stage during this event.

Again, I remind the delegates that we have a number of exhibits in the Exhibit Hall E, and also you can find refreshments in that Hall. There are over 25 exhibitors, and they should be of interest to you, your Department and Posts.

Saturday in the 500 Ballroom and Foreign Relations Committee Room Meeting, there was a 35 mm. Canon Sure Shot Supreme Automatic Auto Focus. It contained two rolls of very important family reunion pictures. The gentleman that owns that camera is not interested in the camera. He is interested in the pictures or the rolls of film. If you have those, would you turn them in to the Headquarters Office Supply Unit.

Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It is my pleasure to introduce our first guest this morning. He is the 14th National President of The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, the largest union for federal workers. He was born in Philadelphia, and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He served in the Air Force from 1956 to 1960 as an electronic technician. He began his civilian career as an employee of the United States Army Interagency Communications Agency. He worked his way through the ranks of AFGE and served as President for his Local from 1968 through 1976. He was elected as Executive Vice President and served as Director of Organization and Administrative Assistant to his two immediate predecessors from 1976 to 1982. He was elected as National President of AFGE in 1988.

AFGE plays an important role in the lives and well-being of American Veterans. The Union represents the largest number of Department of Veterans Affairs employees, nearly 118,000 in all.

The Union also works to help Veterans on Capitol Hill. The AFGE has led the battle to insure fully qualified, experienced hospital personnel who provide the kind of care our nation's Veterans deserve.

They have worked over the years to increase staff levels, hold other agencies responsible for maintaining Veterans' preference in hiring, increase the pay and conditions of VA doctors and medical workers, and demanded modern technology to better serve the Veterans who depend upon the VA for care.

Please join me in welcoming John Sturdivant, National President of The American Federation of Government Employees.

**JOHN D. STURDIVANT, National President
American Federation of Government Employees**

I want you to know how excited and honored that I am to be invited—as one of your keynote speakers. I have many friends in The American Legion and many members of my Union are also members of The American Legion.

I am a Veteran, myself.

I served in the U.S. Air Force in the late 50's. I look back on my experiences in the military with very positive memories.

I grew up in what the so-called experts today would call a "deprived neighborhood." But everybody was in the same boat, so my family didn't feel any difference from other people on our block. That is, until I enlisted.

I remember how all of the other recruits always complained about the food in the Air Force. But I thought it was great. It was the first time I ever had three square meals a day—what a life—three hot and a cot.

I went into the Air Force as a scrawny kid. I gained weight very quickly—that I am still fighting today.

So, I have a great deal of respect for the military traditions of our nation, and for the traditions and the contributions of The American Legion to our nation.

General Patton once said, "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

What I want to talk about today are the common goals and concerns of The American Legion and The American Legion Federation of Government Employees, and extend an invitation to you to join with us to use our ingenuity, together, to achieve our common goals and resolve our joint concerns.

AFGE is a trade union that stands for the principle of people joining together to accomplish things that one person, standing alone, is unable to achieve.

AFGE represents 700,000 government workers in the federal government and the District of Columbia.

AFGE members protect the food you eat, your safety and health on the job and the pensions you receive. They make sure social security checks are mailed on time, protect our borders, enforce our laws and stand guard over those who are sent to prison.

AFGE members also protect our environment, enforce equal opportunity laws, fair housing laws, labor standard laws.

As our nation rallies in support of our troops in the Middle East, it is AFGE members who are performing the vital logistic, supply and airlift services that are essential to our success.

At the Anniston Army Depot, AFGE members readied the M-1 tanks for battle.

At Kelly Air Force Base, AFGE members prepared F-16's and the C5A.

At Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, AFGE members readied the A-10's for combat, and at Ft. Bragg, AFGE members helped paratroopers ship-out to their battle stations.

In less than a month, AFGE members from around the nation helped move a billion dollars' worth of supplies and personnel equivalent to the size of the population of a mid-sized city, halfway across the world.

Throughout every agency of the Department of Defense, AFGE members are still on the job, working long, hard hours, to support our troops in the Middle East.

You and the rest of our nation can have confidence that our members will continue working at the same, high level of performance at their jobs until the President brings our Service men and women back home.

Events in Eastern Europe and South Africa over the past year prove that the yearnings for freedom in people cannot be suppressed by tyrants forever.

But events in the Middle East over the past month also prove that freedom is a fragile gift that we must constantly protect against those who would snatch it from us.

My generation fought the cold war. When I joined the Air Force, our mission was to save the world from Communist Russia.

Like, most of you well remember the Cuban missile crisis. I was in the Reserves then.

We really thought it was going to be all over and the bombs were going to start falling at any moment.

For four days, we lived through the nightmare of nuclear extinction. That experience left a deep mark on me and others of my generation. To have lived long enough to see people dancing on the Berlin Wall is a personal, moving experience for me.

So, I welcome the end of the cold war and a reduction in military spending. This is money that is desperately needed for many community, social and infrastructure problems our nation faces.

But I and the members of our Union also recognize that we must protect our national security.

Any cutbacks in defense spending must be rational, well-planned and seek to ease the economic impact on our communities and the workers who are so honorably serving our nation as we meet here today.

AFGE is asserting a voice and a role in the debate concerning national defense spending.

We have developed a detailed policy statement supporting a downsizing of our nation's defense while, at the same time, retaining a strong national security posture.

We see the need for greater reliance on conventional military capabilities, including a larger role and mission for the National Guard and Reserve. The Middle East crisis is

proving, once again, the importance of a strong, well-trained Reserve component in the military.

We also urge greater controls on military spending and contracting-out. We see firsthand the wasted and scandals involving contracting-out in the Defense Department, and believe this is a luxury we can no longer afford.

We are calling for a comprehensive economic conversion effort to reduce the impact of these cutbacks on the communities that are affected and extensive job assistance for displaced workers.

I look forward to discussing our policy on reduced defense spending in much greater detail with your leadership in the future.

But one part of our policy I know we will get your wholehearted support for is this: That Veterans' programs and health care are as much a national security issue as the effectiveness of M-1 tanks and F-15 fighter planes.

Otherwise, how can the military expect to attract talented and dedicated young people to defend our nation? Why could capable men and women choose to put their lives on the line for a country that ignores the promises made to them and neglects their basic need for quality health care as they grow older?

As we look beyond the Middle East crisis, what does the future hold for military Veterans, for the current members of The American Legion and your future members?

Today, there are an estimated 7.2 million World War II and Korean War Veterans who are over 65. By the year 2000, 9 million Veterans will reach this age group.

At AFGE, we see the demands for medical care growing as the Veteran population gets older. And many of you will be looking to the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive that care.

But will the Department of Veterans Affairs be ready for you?

AFGE members who work in the Veterans Administration comprise the single largest group in our Union. In fact, AFGE represents some 118,000 Department of Veterans Affairs workers, both profession and non-professional, medical and medical support personnel.

We are concerned.

We are concerned about the availability and the quality of care you will receive. Indeed, the system today is already at a breaking point:

Lack of competitive salaries prevents the Department from recruiting qualified personnel and the Department is suffering serious staffing shortages.

The DVA is not staying current with medical research; pharmacy, dietetic and other services have been drastically cut; morale among VA workers is deteriorating and labor-management relations are among the worse in the federal government.

These problems in the DVA are just the tip of the iceberg.

I understand that you heard from Secretary Derwinski yesterday. I've met personally with the Secretary to discuss these concerns and have found him to be very responsive.

I believe he is concerned and sincere in his efforts to improve things. Unfortunately, the cooperation we are trying to build at the top is simply not reaching its way into the field to local VA management.

I have worked very closely with VA workers over many years. I've visited VA facilities around the country and seen firsthand for myself the important services we provide, and the problems that exist.

I want to assure you that the problems that exist are not the making of the employees.

Health care personnel are unique.

Their humanitarian and altruistic motives for entering the health care profession guide their continued dedication and loyalty to patients throughout their careers.

VA health care workers are particularly unique. The workers who have remained with the DVA despite increased workloads, staff shortages and budget cuts are among the most devoted to the care of those who have served our country. They face increasing workloads as vacancies remain unfilled.

They work overtime despite overtime pay caps.

They often don't receive ongoing education and training because it isn't available or they can't be spared off the job.

They face very serious safety and health problems on the job.

Our members want to do a good job. They want to provide quality care for their patients, but they lack the tools and resources to do the best job possible.

The basic problem, of course, is funding. There is also a national shortage of nurses and medical personnel. Despite the adoption of special pay scales, which is really only a band-aid approach to the problem, DVA simply cannot compete for quality people.

I could go on, but I think you get the point.

AFGE members are working hard to correct these problems within the limited resources which are available. We actively communicate with Congress and other government bodies involved in Veterans' Affairs about our suggestions for improving the system.

Our conclusions are clear:

The only way the DVA is going to be able to meet the needs of today's Veterans and prepare for the demands of the future is by offering competitive pay at all levels and providing a quality work environment for VA employees.

We must reassert our nation's commitment to its Veterans and remind the federal government of its obligations to those who put their lives at risk for love of country.

I know The American Legion shares our concern. The American Legion fought for the creation of the Veterans Administration and for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

At a time when we face a massive federal deficit, we face a difficult fight to guarantee that the DVA receives the funding necessary to achieve its mission.

Your organization can't do it alone. AFGE certainly can't do it alone. Together, we can demand and win positive change in the DVA.

AFGE members can be your eyes and ears.

We care about Veterans and their well-being. Otherwise, we would have walked across the street to a private hospital and taken a comparable job at a higher salary.

To us, the endless numbers and dollar signs in the DVA's budget are not just bureaucratic machinations; they translate into a shortage of needed prosthetic equipment for Veterans without limbs; they mean that a single nurse must care for too many patients on a ward, often unable to offer a suffering Veteran a word of comfort; they mean that dedicated personnel must pray that they do not make a life-threatening mistake while they rush from one patient to another.

Together we can make the DVA a caring, responsive program again.

Excessive anti-government rhetoric and attacks on federal workers marked the past two decades. But I hope we can open a new era with the decade of the 90's that marks the beginning of a new partnership between federal workers and the taxpayers whom we serve. I extend to your organization and to your leadership an invitation to join with us in a formal coalition in support of our mutual goals and objectives in the VA.

I am prepared to assign a representative from my office to specifically work with you to set up an ongoing mechanism between The American Legion and The American Federation of Government Employees to meet regularly, identify areas of agreement between us and to overcome areas of disagreement. Let's meet on a regular basis to plan joint action. Let's share information and experiences. Let's engage in joint lobbying and congressional testimony.

Let's show the country and the policymakers that Veterans and those who provide health care services to Veterans are united in making sure that America honors its obligations to "care for those who have borne the battle, and for their widow and their children."

In closing, I leave you with this final thought from General Patton:

"Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow, of the man who leads that gains the victory."

I believe we can win the war to rebuild the Department of Veterans Affairs if we work together in a spirit of cooperation and understanding. AFGE members are prepared to exercise the necessary leadership on our part for success. We are ready and anxious to work with you in a new partnership for a new era.

I wish you a successful Convention and look forward to future opportunities to meet with you again.

God bless you, and thank you for this opportunity.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We want to thank you very much for being here

with us, and we would like to present to you *The American Legion Official History*, the new book we just published. We hope you will read it and learn more and more about the Legion.

Thanks very much for being here with us.

PRESENTATION EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Today, as American Servicemen face unknown dangers in the Middle East, more than a million veterans who have previously served America need a job. Countless others are under-employed and more have given up on the employment system.

Veterans often face job struggles when they leave the Service. Because of this, The American Legion offers job assistance to veterans. The effort has been a continuous one, from monitoring jobs to working for veterans preference in job hiring, to helping with job counseling. Legionnaires have been involved.

For more than a decade the Legion has recognized employers from around the country who have exhibited outstanding records in hiring and retaining Veterans. This morning we recognize two such organizations as 1989 Employers of the Year.

The Award is given in two categories: One, for the companies employing more than 200 workers, and the other, for companies employing fewer than 200 workers. Each is nominated at the Post level, advances through Department competition, and then competes with other Department finalists at the National level.

This year the Award in the under 200 category goes to Jimco, Inc., of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Accepting for Jimco is the President, Jim Hunt, and the Vice President, Bill Flanary.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Flanary, please come forward.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Award reads: "The American Legion National Award, Outstanding Employer of the Year, 1989, presented to Jimco, Inc., for an exceptional record in the employment of Veterans.

"Presented at the 72nd Annual National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 29, 1990."

It is signed by Robert Spanogle, myself as National Commander, Joe Frank as the National Economic Chairman, and James Hubbard, the Director.

It's our pleasure to present this Award to you, sir.

MR. JIM HUNT: Thank you very much, Commander Miles.

It's a great honor for us, a small company, in the great State of Oklahoma, to be here and honored in such a manner. It will be the biggest honor that we will ever receive, and we really appreciate it.

I had a list about 15 pages long of people that we wanted to thank and say that we couldn't have done it without them, and we couldn't have done it without our employees at Jimco, which we are very proud of.

I wanted to let everyone here know, rather than just a name of Jimco, Incorporated, what we do. We are a gasket and metal stamping manufacturer, and do almost anything to make a seal. I have had many people ask what we did, and that is our basic function. We have a number of 36 employees of which most are Veterans.

We want to extend our gratitude for the delegation from Oklahoma who has helped us so much in the preparation of our company to The American Legion, and we do appreciate this very much.

I would like to give to Commander Epling, a pin with the seal of the great State of Oklahoma on it.

I have also been asked to let everybody know that the Oklahoma delegation likes pins. Thanks a million for everything.

MR. BILL FLANARY: I would just like to thank The American Legion and everybody for what they have done. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We thank you, from The American Legion, Jimco, Incorporated, for hiring American Veterans.

Let me present to you also The American Legion History, an Official History of The American Legion.

MR. HUNT: Thank you very much. If you thought Commander Epling was nervous yesterday, that was my knees knocking and not the bandstand. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Award in the over 200 category goes to Lockheed Aeromod Center, Inc., of Greenville, South Carolina.

Accepting for Lockheed is Mr. Wendell Kingsmore, Director of Human Resources.

This Award reads: "The American Legion National Award, Outstanding Employer of the Year, 1989, presented to Lockheed Aeromod, Center, Inc., for an exceptional record in the employment of Veterans, presented at the 72nd Annual National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 29, 1990."

It's our pleasure to present to you and the Lockheed, this Award and say thank you from American Veterans.

MR. WENDELL KINGSMORE: Commander Epling, ladies and gentlemen of The American Legion. Earlier this year our company received a letter from Commander Epling notifying us that Lockheed Aeromod, Greenville, South Carolina, had won the 1989 National Employer of the Year Award. This Award was bestowed as a result of our efforts to hire returning Veterans.

We do, indeed, have a track record of hiring Veterans, of which we are very proud. We hire returning Veterans for a number of reasons. These men and women who have served in our country's Armed Forces, get the finest technical training available anywhere in the world. These returning Veterans have a positive attitude about doing top quality work, which is essential in the maintenance and modification of aircraft. These people exhibit leadership skills which they have learned while in the Armed Forces which are very valuable, both to themselves and to our company. These returning Veterans well know the meaning of loyalty. To me loyalty to the company you work for is highly desirable, second only to loyalty to one's family and to one's country.

There are many more good reasons to hire returning Veterans, but I think I have covered the major areas.

We plan to continue to offer job opportunities to Veterans as long as business conditions permit. It is good for our country; it is good for the Veterans, and it is good for this great country in which we live and serve.

Commander Epling, my company and I are honored to receive this Award, and I accept it with a genuine feeling of deep appreciation for your recognition of what we are trying to do for Veterans. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We also want to present to you and your company The American Legion Official History book, and we hope you will display it at your company and learn more about The American Legion. Thank you.

Thank you all very much, and we appreciate what you do for America's Veterans.

The Chair recognizes Joseph J. Frank of Missouri, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Economics, for the purpose of making a report.

**Report of the
NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE
ON EMPLOYMENT AND VETERAN PREFERENCE
AND OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS
72nd National Convention
The American Legion
Joseph J. Frank (MO), Chairman**

At 9:00 a.m. on August 26, 1990, ninety-seven delegates assigned to the convention Committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and on Other Economic Matters

convened in Room 142 of the Indiana Convention Center to consider two hundred resolutions assigned to the committees for action. Joseph J. Frank of Missouri was elected General Chairman and John Feeney of Florida was elected Secretary. Henry Field of South Carolina was elected Chairman of the Convention Committee on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Robert P. Walsh of Texas was elected Secretary. James McMahon of Maine was elected Chairman of the Convention Committee on Other Economic Matters and George Harrison of Maryland was elected Secretary.

In response to a call by the National Adjutant, a screening committee composed of five members of the National Economic Commission and its affiliated committees convened in Room 260 of the Indiana Convention Center on August 24, 1990, to make recommendations to the Convention Committees on Economics. Members of this committee were Joseph J. Frank (MO), James A. McMahon (ME), Henry J. Field (SC), Robert H. Vincelette (VT), and William E. Christoffersen (UT). The report of the screening committee was presented to the Convention Committees and was adopted. The report follows.

Employment and Veterans' Preference Committee APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 39 (Alabama) Subject: Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) and the Federal Unified Budget

As amended and consolidated with 122-TX, 154-WI, 251-UT, 400-MO, 502-IA, 526-OK.

WHEREAS, Efforts to reduce the Federal budget deficits and the national debt broadly affect all budgets and programs funded from the Federal Unified Budget; and

WHEREAS, For the management and administration of the Employment Security programs of the United States Department of Labor, the Congress has established the Federal Unemployment Tax Account through which employers are taxed, and collected proceeds are used to lessen the unemployment rate through job placement and other services; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States in 1963 expressed its intent that these trust funds may be used only in the administration of the Employment Security program, and directed that the funds be placed under the control of the General Fund of the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) revenues can only be used for specific unemployment, employment, and veterans' employment activities; and

WHEREAS, Cost-cutting measures affecting the Federal Unified Budget also cut FUTA funded activities, including veterans' employment programs, without benefiting actual budget reduction efforts or the national debt; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support a policy calling for the FUTA revenues and expenditures to be removed from Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration procedures.

Resolution No. 43 (Alabama) Subject: State Employment Security Agencies and Funding Under the Wagner-Peyser Act

As amended and consolidated with 15-NE, 56-AL, 72-ND, 73-ND, 129-IL, 147-WI, 176-WI, 224-UT, 235-UT 248-UT, 374-CO, 406-MO, 407-MO, 477-ME, 496-IA, 499-IA, 519-OK, 527-OK, 530-OK, 533-OK, 537-CA, 546-CA.

WHEREAS, The changing defense need of this nation have made it likely that the size of the armed forces will be reduced; and

WHEREAS, Layoffs from firms doing business with the Defense Department are likely as a result of decreased defense spending; and

WHEREAS, Current funding for the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) is insufficient to assure that veterans' employment and training programs are adequately administered; and

WHEREAS, Some state job offices are encouraging Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists (DVOPs) to undertake non-veterans related activities; and

WHEREAS, The proper implementation of almost all veterans' employment and training programs depends upon the attention given these programs by individual offices of the State Employment Security Agencies; and

WHEREAS, The SESAs have suffered an approximately 50 percent personnel reduction over the last eight years; and

WHEREAS, This has resulted in office closures and dependence upon antiquated and nonuniform automation systems; and

WHEREAS, The FY 1991 funding level is slated at only \$722.6 million and continues to be subject to further projected reductions; and

WHEREAS, Shortages in Wagner-Peyser funds and reductions in SESA personnel levels over the last eight years have had a profound effect on the aggressiveness with which veterans' employment and training programs are administered; and

WHEREAS, No obvious or successfully implemented incentives exist to foster aggressive implementation of veterans' employment and training programs are administered; and

WHEREAS, The existence of an incentive mechanism predicated upon measurable success in implementing veterans' employment and training programs can be expected to spur greater attention by the SESAs to these programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion supports legislation affording an adequate funding level for Wagner-Peyser, 10 percent of which is to be set aside for the purpose of affording grants to states having measurably demonstrated their aggressiveness in implementing veterans' employment and training programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That grants provided to states successfully implementing veterans' employment and training programs be subject to criteria based on:

- compliance with all federally mandated veterans' employment and training programs;
- outreach to programs operated under Titles II and III of the Job Training Partnership Act;
- numbers of veterans (particularly dislocated veterans) successfully training and placed in jobs yielding a minimum living wage as defined by local market conditions;
- outreach to special disabled, catastrophically disabled, Vietnam theater, Vietnam era recently separated veterans;
- establishment of training workshops in conjunction with and apart from the National Veterans Training Institute;
- demonstrated success in implementing cooperative agreements with other agencies such as the DVA, Department of Education, OPM, SBA, DoD and other relevant agencies.

Resolution No. 44 (Alabama) Subject: Basic Skills Pilot Programs Prior to Separation From Military Service.

As consolidated with 156-UT, 230-UT, 416-MO, 501-IA, 525-OK, 538-CA

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service people have been leaving the military services each year and seek employment in civilian occupations; and

WHEREAS, Global democratization and peace initiatives could bring about drastic reductions in armed forces throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, A very high percentage of separatees do not have the basic skills and knowledge needed in order to conduct a successful job search; and

WHEREAS, There are two successful pilot programs presently being conducted specifically for the purpose of teaching necessary skills to cope with demands of the civilian labor market such as resume writing and job search and interview techniques; and

WHEREAS, This employment related program should be conducted when needed most, prior to separation from the service; and

WHEREAS, These programs are absolutely essential to make a smooth transition into the civilian labor force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion hereby urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to establish a permanent pre-separation employment program at all military discharge facilities, which will be staffed in cooperation with the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Service personnel; this program to commence for separatees not less than 60 days prior to discharge; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion request the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to make a concentrated effort to coordinate with the Department of Defense in order to expand these programs to all military installations throughout the country.

Resolution No. 47 (Alabama) Subject: Enforcement Of Veterans' Preference In The Postal Service

As consolidated with 153-WI, 189-PA, 345-UT, 284-VT, 410-MO, 472-ME, 503-IA, 541-CA.

WHEREAS, Congress included in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 a provision that veterans' preference shall apply in the Postal Service in the same manner and under the same conditions as if the applicant, officer, or employee were subject to the competitive service in Federal employment; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Service Commission, and subsequently the Office of Personnel Management, has not enforced the provisions of this Act as it affects veterans applying to and employed by the Postal Service, thereby nullifying the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have had long and commendable service in the Postal Service, constituting 70 percent of all Postal Service employees in 1970, a percentage which has declined to 46 percent in 1986; and

WHEREAS, The Postal Service has persistently evaded applying veterans' preference as intended by law, illustrated by a recently imposed system (called OPTEX) of testing job applicants in large cities at random, thereby leaving many veterans with five-point preference untested and thereby not eligible for consideration for hiring, at which time veterans' preference would apply; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Personnel Management has stated that it has no authority to enforce compliance by the U.S. Postal Service with the provisions of Title 5, United States Code, on veterans' preference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion seek legislation to give the U.S. Office of Personnel Management authority to enforce in the U.S. Postal Service the rights of veterans as provided in Title 5, United States Code, and in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose the use by the Postal Service of the system termed OPTEX, unless all five-point veterans be afforded the opportunity to compete by examination for all Postal Service jobs.

Resolution No. 49 (Alabama) Subject: Support the Permanent Extension of the Veterans Readjustment Appointment Program

As consolidated with 167-WI, 249-UT, 412-MO, 504-IA, 523-OK, 542-CA.

WHEREAS, This country has traditionally provided those who served during a time of war with an advantage in Federal employment and retention; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority was established by Executive Order in 1970 to assist veterans of the Vietnam era to make the transition back into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The VRA program provides for non-competitive entry into Federal employment along with educational and training benefits for those who are compensably disabled and/or educationally disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Another goal of this program is to provide Federal agencies with more flexibility in hiring; and

WHEREAS, The use of the VRA program as a hiring tool is discretionary rather than mandatory with some agencies utilizing it while others completely ignore it; and

WHEREAS, Through the use of this authority over 180,000 Vietnam era veterans have been hired with nearly 85% being converted to career appointments; and

WHEREAS, Any financial investment that has been made by the Federal government for the education and training of those who have been converted to career appointments has been or will be repaid in the form of higher taxation on their incomes; and

WHEREAS, More than two-thirds of those veterans who are 60% or more compensably disabled have completely dropped out of the labor market because some employers in both the public and private sectors have refused to make the necessary accommodations for their employment; and

WHEREAS, Many of these severely disabled veterans could benefit not only from employment, but also from the educational and training benefits offered by the VRA program thus making them productive, taxpaying members of society; and

WHEREAS, There is an ever-growing number of dislocated workers, many of whom are veterans, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, Many of these dislocated workers do not have the necessary financial resources to obtain the training or retraining that would make them employable; and

WHEREAS, The VRA program could be used to put many of these veterans back to work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion seek the permanent extension of the VRA program past its scheduled expiration date of December 31, 1993; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to urge the Office of Personnel Management to support and promote fully the use of VRA appointments by all Federal agencies under its jurisdiction.

Resolution No. 58 (Alabama) Subject: Oppose The Tranfer of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs

As consolidated with 144-WI, 164-WI, 232-UT, 413-MO, 508-IA, 548-CA.

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor (DoL) was established in 1913 for the purpose of providing this nation's workers with employment and training assistance; and

WHEREAS, By authority of Chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38, U.S. Code, DoL has been given responsibility for providing effective job counseling, training and placement services for veterans and certain others through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 43 of that same Title also gave DoL responsibility for administering a Veterans' Reemployment Rights Program; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States established the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training within the DoL for the express purpose of developing, promulgating and administering programs designed to assist veterans in obtaining meaningful employment; and

WHEREAS, The Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training (ASVET) is also responsible for the supervision of all VETS activities; and

WHEREAS, A proposal has been made to transfer all functions of VETS and ASVET from DoL to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), which is neither staffed nor funded to carry out these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, With the exception of Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds and those provided by the McKinney Act for homeless projects, all funding for the operation of the ASVET's office and VETS comes from the Federal Unemployment Tax Account (FUTA); and

WHEREAS, FUTA funds are paid by the employers of this nation, and therefore should remain under the control of the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, There is no evidence that service to veterans in the form of preferential and priority service will be improved or even maintained by such a transfer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion hereby strongly oppose any attempt to transfer the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans' Employment and Training to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 127 (Illinois) Subject: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Personnel

As amended.

WHEREAS, Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, specifically outlines the duties and responsibilities of U.S. Veterans' Employment and Training staff and veterans staff (LVERs and DVOPs), of State agencies who operate veterans' programs in individual states for the U.S. Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, Numerous LVERs and DVOPs have been cross-trained in unemployment insurance (UI) duties and test programs are in progress whereby LVER and DVOP staff are providing unemployment insurance services; and

WHEREAS, By adding unemployment insurance duties, the duties and responsibilities outlined for state agency veterans staff (LVERs and DVOPs) will be seriously reduced and will only add to the many faceted unemployment and training problems of veterans as documented by state and federal reports and records; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion requests that state agency veterans staff (Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists) provide only the services to veterans as outlined in Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes any effort to use DVOP or LVER staff in the taking, documenting or resolving of claims for unemployment insurance by any citizen, veteran or not.

Resolution No. 146 (Wisconsin) Subject: Publicizing Non Competitive Appointment of Eligible Veterans

WHEREAS, Veterans' preference in federal employment is to be observed in all federal agencies, but Congress has provided special hiring programs for noncompetitive appointments for certain eligible veterans with conversion to career appointments after satisfactory work performance; and

WHEREAS, One of these, the Veterans Readjustment Appointments, originally established by an Executive Order in 1970, and later codified into law, provides noncompetitive appointments for Vietnam and disabled veterans and has helped over 180,000 veterans find jobs; and

WHEREAS, Another authority allows the noncompetitive hiring of veterans with 30% or more service-connected disability, and 67% of veterans with such 30% disability hired by the federal government have been under this program; and

WHEREAS, The use of these special authorities is not mandatory, but is discretionary in federal agencies, with consequent widely varying use of these programs intended to help veterans find federal employment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Office of Personnel Management to continue to promote and publicize these special hiring programs for the noncompetitive appointment of eligible veterans.

Resolution No. 155 (Wisconsin) Subject: Oppose Contracting Out of Those Federal Jobs Reserved For Veterans

As consolidated with 48-AL, 246-UT, 411-MO, 473-ME, 494-IA

WHEREAS, Federal law provides that the positions of guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians in federal agencies are restricted to veterans' preference eligibles; and

WHEREAS, Those positions have often been contracted out to private contractors, thus denying a preference eligible the opportunity to compete for these positions; and

WHEREAS, The federal government intends to increase contracting out these services to private contractors, thus circumventing the intent of the above provisions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion seek legislation to prohibit the contracting out of those positions as guards, elevator operators, messengers, and custodians restricted by Federal statute to veterans' preference eligibles.

Resolution No. 160 (Wisconsin) Subject: Dislocated Workers

As consolidated with 161-IA, 233-UT, 418-MO, 552-CA.

WHEREAS, During the past decade the nation has been in a state of transition from an industrial to a post-industrial economy, resulting in substantial economic turbulence, with widespread plant closures, loss of family farms, and unemployment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor estimates that over five million workers have been dislocated from their jobs since 1979, of whom some 26 percent are veterans; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans dislocated workers are also older workers, whose careers have been interrupted and who are experiencing additional job finding difficulties associated with age discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies have also shown that recently discharged service personnel have difficulty in translating military skills and experience to civilian experience, with consequent job finding difficulty and delay in entering the economic mainstream; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have been underserved by the dislocated workers program authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we seek legislation to target as a critical segment of the work force, dislocated workers who are veterans in any national program for dislocated workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment (1) conduct research into the causes of job dislocation among veterans; and (2) develop a pilot program under Title IV-C of JTPA which specifically addresses their employment needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That recently discharged military veterans be included as an eligible group to be served under any national programs for dislocated workers.

Resolution No. 225 (Utah) Subject: Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program

As consolidated with 59-AL, 150-WI, 396-MO, 509-IA, 529-OK, 550-CA.

WHEREAS, The Revenue Act of 1978 authorized the Targeted Job Tax Credit (TJTC) program to assist individuals from targeted economically disadvantaged groups, with one such group being Vietnam era veterans; and

WHEREAS, TJTC offers employers a tax credit of forty percent of the first \$6000 of qualified wages, or a maximum of \$2400 per eligible worker; and

WHEREAS, Most veterans' employment specialists consider TJTC one of the most effective tools for job placement, with over 30,000 Vietnam era veterans obtaining meaningful employment in 1987 alone; and

WHEREAS, Continuation of TJTC will encourage more employers to consider hiring more eligible veterans, will provide eligible veterans an opportunity to attain economic independence, and will help turn Federal liabilities into productive taxpayers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion seek legislation to have the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit made a permanent Federal program.

Resolution No. 238 (Utah) Subject: Adequate Funding For Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act

As consolidated with 55-AL, 173-WI, 373-CO, 405-MO, 495-IA, 521-OK.

WHEREAS, The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was enacted to prepare veterans, youth, unskilled adults and others for jobs in the labor market; and

WHEREAS, Title IV established federally administered programs for special target groups, including veterans, Native Americans, and migrant and seasonal farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Title IV-C is the only provision of JTPA which provides for specific services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The \$10 million in funds provided under Title IV-C are entirely inadequate to address the pressing employment and training needs of veterans of all eras; and

WHEREAS, Employment and training programs for Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farm workers are annually funded at an adequate level; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate funding for veterans' programs and failure to identify veterans in other Job Training Partnership Act programs prevented programs under this Act from adequately addressing the employment needs of the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge Congress to increase funding for veterans' employment and training programs under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act to at least \$60 million per year.

Resolution No. 241 (Utah) Subject: Unemployment Benefits For Veterans

As consolidated with 27-MA, 52-AL, 171-WI, 402-MO, 456-MI, 507-IA, 531-OK, 543-CA.

WHEREAS, Employees, when found unemployed due to no fault of their own, are eligible to receive unemployment benefits after one week and for a maximum of 26 weeks; and

WHEREAS, Veterans being discharged after successfully completing their enlistment must wait four or more weeks to become eligible for unemployment benefits and are eligible for only a maximum of 13 weeks; and

WHEREAS, Many thousands of men and women have been or will be involuntarily separated from the military because of the Administration's plans to down-size the Armed Forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion seek legislation to eliminate the waiting period before which a veteran can be found eligible and increase the number of weeks of eligibility for unemployment benefits to be the same as for the civilian labor force.

Resolution No. 376 (Colorado) Subject: Adequate Funding of National Veterans Training Institute

As amended.

WHEREAS, The National Veterans Training Institute was created by P.L. 100-323 in May 1988 and has been the most successful training program for veterans' employment staff in the United States and has assisted the unemployed veterans in every state due to its high quality of training and instruction in the fields of veterans' benefits, Veterans Reemployment Rights law, improving the skill levels and knowledge of veterans' representatives and those they work with to improve the services to veterans in need; and

WHEREAS, OMB has requested the Administration to fund this extremely valuable program at only \$829,000 for each year, which is a \$2.1 million reduction; and

WHEREAS, This will force the Assistant Secretary to use a major portion of his discretionary funding to ensure the proper operation of NVTI; and

WHEREAS, This is contrary to the intent of the Congress and hinders the improvement of jobs and training for veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that Congress fund the NVTI at the contracted amount, which will ensure proper operation of the veterans' programs at the National Veterans Training Institute.

Resolution No. 395 (Missouri) Subject: Provision For Veterans' Training Under Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

As consolidated with 57-AL, 60-AL, 158-WI, 165-WI, 228-UT, 234-UT, 286-VT, 397-MO, 429-IA, 510-IA, 524-OK, 547-CA.

WHEREAS, The American Legion is interested and involved in the economic well-being of all veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion acts as the guardian of the veteran's interest in employment and training issues; and

WHEREAS, Disadvantaged and homeless veterans do occur in our society in numbers which warrant the nation's attention; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Labor operates programs for the general population and specific groups of disadvantaged persons and dislocated workers; and

WHEREAS, There are many veterans being left out of the vast programs of employment and training operated by the U.S. Department of Labor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion petition the Congress of the United States to amend the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Public Law 97-300, to provide for veteran preference in programs operated under JTPA as is now the case under employment and training programs operated under Chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38 of the United States Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion interact with the National Governors' Association and the National Council of State Legislatures and individual state components thereof, to cause governors and state legislatures to identify veterans as special emphasis target groups within the Governor's JTPA Coordination and Special Emphasis Plans, each year, and appoint strong veteran representation on the State Job Training Coordinating Councils and Private Industry councils for the specific purpose of reviewing plans for significant veteran service provisions.

Resolution No. 399 (Missouri) Subject: Veterans Affirmative Action for Federal Grantees

As consolidated with 50-AL, 174-WI, 243-UT, 497-IA.

WHEREAS, Section 2012 of Title 38, United States Code, provides that any private contractor or subcontractor with a Federal contract for the procurement of property or services of \$10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, Such Federal contractors and subcontractors are required to list immediately any suitable job openings with the local Employment Service Office, so that such office may provide eligible veterans priority of referral as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Public agencies receiving Federal grants for such procurements and services are not subject to these affirmative action or job listing requirements; and

WHEREAS, The past decade has witnessed a trend away from direct Federal administration of public works toward provision of such services by State and local government through Federal block grants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge Congress to amend Section 2012 of Title 38, United States Code, to require Federal grantees and their subcontractors to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment disabled and Vietnam-era veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such grantees and subcontractors be required to list immediately with the local Employment Service Office all of its suitable employment openings.

Resolution No. 401 Subject: Definition of Vietnam Veterans for Employment Services

As consolidated with 51-AL, 169-WI, 242-UT, 475-ME, 505-IA, 113-OK.

WHEREAS, Public Law 92-540 substantially strengthened the provisions in Chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38, United States Code, for ensuring effective employment services to veterans through the public employment service by requiring maximum and priority services for disabled and Vietnam era veterans; and

WHEREAS, After 1991, Vietnam era veterans will constitute a large majority of veterans in the labor force and will thus require employment and training services; and

WHEREAS, The provision of effective employment services to all veterans through the public employment service depends largely on the work of the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 41 of Title 38, U.S. Code, currently provides that no veteran shall be considered a veteran of the Vietnam era after December 31, 1991, for the purpose of receiving service under that chapter and Chapter 41; and

WHEREAS, The staffing levels for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program are determined by the disabled and Vietnam era veteran population in each state; and

WHEREAS, After December 31, 1991, the total number of Disabled Veterans Outreach Program personnel will be reduced by 75 percent, and the total number of veteran-dedicated staff in the public employment service reduced by 43 percent because of the Vietnam era veteran definition change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion seek legislation to amend Chapter 42, Title 38, United States Code, deleting any time limit for the definition of a Vietnam era veteran.

Resolution No. 403 (Missouri) Subject: Reauthorization of the Veterans Job Training Act

As consolidated with 53-AL, 142-WI, 239-UT, 375-CO, 491-IA, 544-CA.

WHEREAS, The nation has long recognized that employment and employment training are two of the principal readjustment needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Unlike with other readjustment problems, such as education, housing, and health care, Congress has created no long-term initiative to address the employment training needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans have experienced and are continuing to experience structural unemployment and underemployment problems, with the Department of Labor reporting that one quarter of displaced workers are veterans; and

WHEREAS, No veterans' job training program created in the last generation has been of sufficient longevity to gain the confidence of the employer community in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the two-year Emergency Veterans Job Training Act in 1982, and has subsequently extended it as the Veterans Job Training Act; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Job Training Act has placed over 60,000 veterans, but hundreds of thousands of other veterans who applied for participation have yet to be placed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion supports legislation to authorize permanently the Veterans Job Training Act to provide a sustained program for training and placing eligible veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such legislation contain authorization for, and Congress be urged to appropriate, sufficient funding, at no less than \$75 million per year, to operate the Veterans Job Training Act through the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 408 (Missouri) Subject: Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program

As consolidated with 45-AL, 163-WI, 229-UT, 490-IA, 522-OK, 539-CA.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor has conducted a study entitled, "Workforce 2000: Work and Workers for the 21st Century"; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States conducted a study entitled "Technology in Structural Unemployment; Re-employed Displaced Adults"; and

WHEREAS, Neither of these studies specifically addresses the employment and training needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, There are 27.8 million veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico as of March 31, 1986, a number which is expected to decline to 24 million by the turn of the century; and

WHEREAS, Veterans represent a significant portion of our national labor force; and

WHEREAS, Current and proposed legislative initiatives to develop employment and training programs to meet the dynamic changes that are taking place within our nation's labor force do not address the needs of veterans; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion request Congress to cooperate with the Department of Labor to establish a Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program that will:

1. Facilitate veteran worker adjustment to relocation and new occupational skills;
2. Provide temporary income support during training and retraining;
3. Oppose obsolescence through ongoing basic adult education;
4. Stimulate employer participation through tax credits for employee training programs and incentives to defray the cost of training similar to the current Veterans' Job Training Act;

5. Provide flexibility to the service provider to tailor program assistance to the needs of the veterans and geographic area served;

6. Establish a Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Entitlement Program administered by the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Congress to appropriate not less than \$60 million per year for the purpose of administering this Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program.

Resolution No. 415 (Missouri) Subject: **Enforce Affirmative Action Required of Federal Contractors**

As Consolidated with 152-WI, 237-UT, 474-ME, 493-IA, 551-CA.

WHEREAS, Enforcement of the requirement of Section 2012 of Title 38, United States Code, that any private contractor or subcontractor with a government contract for the procurement of property or services of \$10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era, has been vested in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) of the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, There has been no meaningful and effective enforcement of this requirement in the OFCCP, and qualified veterans have been denied employment opportunities within the private sector, contrary to the intent of Congress in providing such benefit; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for veterans' employment programs with the U.S. Department of Labor has been assigned to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, with appropriate staffing and funding, with the exception of the cited provisions of law required of Federal contractors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we seek legislation to place in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training responsibility for implementing and enforcing the requirement of the law that private contractors or subcontractors with Federal contracts shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training shall be provided sufficient funds for additional staff and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this mandate, with employees of the Department of Labor administering provisions of this law administratively responsible to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 417 (Missouri) Subject: **Educationally Disadvantaged Veterans**

As consolidated with 159-WI, 231-UT, 506-IA, 532-OK.

WHEREAS, Subchapter V, Title 38, United States Code (USC), contains provisions to provide special assistance for educationally disadvantaged veterans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that veterans' median education is 12.7 years, and the least common source of civilian employment qualification training and additional training is military service; and

WHEREAS, Bureau of Labor Statistics data reflect educational attainment of the United States labor force has increased significantly over the past decade, and that approximately 46 percent of the labor force have more than a high school education, and groups with the highest education experience lower incidence of unemployment, and personal income increases with advanced education; and

WHEREAS, The median years of education required by new jobs created between now and the year 2000 will be 13.5 compared to 12.8 years for the current work force, and the economic challenge of the future requires upgrading the job skill levels of 25 million Americans by 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, A common trait of today's veterans is a level of education slightly less than 13 years, and many veterans have lost educational entitlements through mandated delimiting dates, thus in context of the "Workforce 2000" hypothesis have obtained an artificial barrier to employment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we call upon Congress to revitalize the in-

tent of the "GI Bill," in particular Section 1662(a)(3), and 1691 Title 38, U.S. Code, which will redefine educationally disadvantaged as less than 14 years education, and provide assistance on a recurring basis to those veterans who are educationally disadvantaged or who require vocational training; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion petition Congress to refine the Veterans' Educational Outreach Program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Amendment Act of 1986 to encourage veterans, in particular those who are dislocated and without Department of Veterans Affairs education entitlements, to pursue remedial skill training and education. In view of the current cost per credit hour at community colleges, tuition assistance for disadvantaged veterans should be incorporated into this program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support cooperative education programs which capitalize upon two year colleges and that we support private learning centers offering alternating or parallel periods of employment and study for veterans so that they may be competitive in the rapidly changing "Workforce 2000" labor force.

Resolution No. 428 (Iowa) Subject: Veterans Priority of Service Within the United States Employment Service

As consolidated with 62-AL, 168-WI, 226-UT, 414-MO, 471-ME, 520-OK, 549-CA.

WHEREAS, Section 652.120, 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) established a priority of referral for qualified applicants to job openings and training opportunities, and provides for maximum employment and training in accordance with Title 38, United States Code (USC); and

WHEREAS, The Ready Reserve is the major source of manpower augmentation for the active forces and includes selective reserve units, pretrained individual reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, inactive National Guard, and individual Ready Reserve; and approximately one-third of the individuals in uniform serving our country are Ready Reserve and National Guard; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 27.8 million veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico, and this number is expected to decline to 24 million by the turn of the century, and that approximately 300,000 veterans are discharged annually of whom an estimated 20,000 are disabled; and

WHEREAS, Employers of the future will be confronted with severe labor shortages requiring them to look beyond traditional recruiting systems to seek out new reservoirs of qualified employees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Congress to enact legislation to establish preferential employment and training services in the following priorities in all the Department of Labor's programs and services including the United States Employment Service:

1. Special Disabled Veteran (Section 200 (1) 38 USC)
2. Disabled Veteran (Section 2011 (3) 38 USC)
3. Conflict Veteran (receipt of campaign/expeditionary medal)
4. Eligible Veteran (Section 2011 (4) 38 USC)
5. Other Eligible (Section 2001 (5) 38 USC); and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion petition the Congress to enact legislation to amend Section 2001 (5) Title 38, USC, to include a subsection 2001 (5) (D) that would define members of the Ready Reserve and National Guard and active duty service members within 180 days of separation as "eligible persons" for special consideration in receiving employment service assistance.

REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 14 (Nebraska) Subject: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs)

Resolution No. 16 (Nebraska) Subject: Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and the 25% Work Hour Requirement

Resolution No. 61 (Alabama) Subject: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives Allocation

Resolution No. 95 (Montana) Subject: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Personnel

Resolution No. 130 (Illinois) Subject: The Ready Reserve and National Guard for Special Consideration in Employment Service Assistance

Resolution No. 145 (Wisconsin) Subject: Urge the Secretary of Labor to Conduct a Complete Review of the Policy and Programmatic Decision Making Process Within the Department of Labor as it Affects Veterans

Resolution No. 151 (Wisconsin) Subject: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) Personnel

Resolution No. 227 (Utah) Subject: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERS)

Resolution No. 394 (Missouri) Subject: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERS)

Resolution No. 464 (Washington) Subject: Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, So as to Permit Former Members of the National Guard and Reserves to Receive Preferences in Employment

Resolution No. 492 (Iowa) Subject: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives Allocation

Resolution No. 536 (California) Subject: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERS)

RECEIVED AND RECORDED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 40 (Alabama) Subject: Aiding Homeless Veterans

Resolution No. 46 (Alabama) Subject: Support Veterans' Preference

Resolution No. 54 (Alabama) Subject: Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service

Resolution No. 143 (Wisconsin) Subject: Support Veterans' Preference

Resolution No. 170 (Wisconsin) Subject: Aiding Homeless Veterans

Resolution No. 172 (Wisconsin) Subject: Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service

Resolution No. 236 (Utah) Subject: Aiding Homeless Veterans

Resolution No. 240 (Utah) Subject: Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service

Resolution No. 244 (Utah) Subject: Support Veterans' Preference

Resolution No. 368 (Colorado) Subject: Aiding Homeless Veterans

Resolution No. 398 (Missouri) Subject: Aiding Homeless Veterans

Resolution No. 404 (Missouri) Subject: Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service

Resolution No. 409 (Missouri) Subject: Support Veterans' Preference

Resolution No. 476 (Maine) Subject: Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service

Resolution No. 498 (Iowa) Subject: Support Veterans' Preference

Resolution No. 500 (Iowa) Subject: Aiding Homeless Veterans

Resolution No. 528 (Oklahoma) Subject: Validity Generalization (VG)

Resolution No. 540 (California) Subject: Support Veterans' Preference

Resolution No. 545 (California) Subject: Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service

Other Economic Matters Committee APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 63 (Alabama) Subject: Strong Support For The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program

As consolidated with 175-WI, 253-UT, 285-VT, 420-MO, 426-IA.

WHEREAS, During the past 44 years, the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program has provided nearly 13 million veterans with the opportunity to own their own homes, thereby assisting not only the veteran, but the home building industry and the national economy as well; and

WHEREAS, A small number of veteran homeowners default on their VA guaranteed loans, resulting in the VA either paying off the statutory guaranty or acquiring the property through the offering of "vendee" loans on which it subsequently sells; and

WHEREAS, The VA Home Loan Program is, by its very nature, a veterans' entitlement; and

WHEREAS, Program deficits, prior to 1984, were offset by rising inflation in home prices or by supplemental funding from VA Direct Loan Program income; and

WHEREAS, High inflation and rising interest rates, as well as national and regional recessions, have generated increasing deficits in the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion reaffirm its strong commitment to a viable VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek Congressional and/or administrative action which would develop and maintain supplemental income sources, such as portfolios of Direct and Vendee loans, sufficient to generate income to support periodic deficits incurred by the Home Loan Guarantee Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any down payment or increase in funding fees for veterans and work to abolish existing funding fees enacted in Public Law 101-237; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any change in the net value calculations formula at foreclosure which would make the VA Guaranteed Loan Program less attractive to mortgage investors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports a policy of strengthening the solvency of the Manufactured Home Loan Program by raising quality standards and weather resistance of manufactured homes to insure dollar value received in each veteran's purchase of a manufactured home under the VA Home Loan Guarantee Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports legislation to restore entitlement to a veteran whose loan defaulted after assumption by another party and that no debt be incurred in such cases and no taxes should be assessed against the veteran.

Resolution No. 252 (Utah) Subject: VA Loan Assumption

As consolidated with 166-WI, 419-MO, 478-ME, 482-IA, 535-OK.

WHEREAS, A veteran may choose to purchase a home with a loan that has been guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, One of the most attractive features of these loans is that they may be assumed by subsequent buyers; and

WHEREAS, Most Veterans do not know that if they sell their homes and allow the purchaser to assume their original loan, they must obtain a Release from Liability from the VA at the time of the sale; and

WHEREAS, Unless the veteran has obtained such a release, he/she remains liable to the VA for any unpaid balance on the loan should the purchaser, or any subsequent purchaser who is allowed to assume that loan, go into default; and

WHEREAS, Many hundreds of veterans have suffered financial hardship and even financial ruin because of this quirk in the law; and

WHEREAS, The VA has the power to waive the debt if the veteran can prove that its payment would cause him undue financial hardship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we sponsor and support legislation that specifies that when a VA loan is assumed by another party, and when the party is approved as credit worthy by the VA or a VA approved lender, the veteran who originated the loan is automatically relieved from all liability; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such legislation will provide that the VA shall cancel any existing claims against any veteran who had previously owned such defaulted property prior to March 1, 1988, including those claims being processed at the time the legislation becomes effective, and cancel any ongoing collections from veterans because of such claims; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation to prohibit the IRS from taxing as income any amount waived by the VA.

Resolution No. 370 (Colorado) Subject: VA Home Loans

WHEREAS, The "no down payment" home loan program in the Veterans "bill of rights" ever since World War II has made it possible for millions of veterans to own their own home; and

WHEREAS, Most veterans' defaults on loans are the result of recession of the economy caused by poor government leadership and sometimes corruption rather than the result of veteran irresponsibility; and

WHEREAS, The Administration and the Congress are recommending that veterans' loans commence requiring down payment on top of already 1% funding fee which neither reduces interest nor principal of the loan but is simply a bribe to the lender to make the loan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that Congress be urged to retain the "no down payment" VA Loan program.

Resolution No. 421 (Missouri) Subject: Support Continuation Of The Small Business Administration (SBA) and Its Office Of Veterans Affairs (OVA)

WHEREAS, Federal assistance to veteran-owned small business is a traditional veterans' benefit that dates back to the passage of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created by Congress in 1953 and was given responsibility for administering a veterans' program including both direct and guaranteed loans; and

WHEREAS, In 1974 Congress passed P.L. 93-237, which mandated the SBA to provide "special consideration" to veterans, their survivors and dependents; and

WHEREAS, The SBA's Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA) has in recent years worked very closely with veterans' service organizations and has kept them apprised of its efforts on behalf of veteran entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, The SBA's OVA is considering several initiatives that would enhance its loan programs as well as its other services to veterans to include a "Small Loan Program" for direct loans, a 90% guaranty on surety bonds, and a special set-aside program for veteran-owned businesses that provide goods and services to the Federal government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion continue its strong support of the Small Business Administration and its Office of Veterans' Affairs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully support any legislative or administrative proposals that would increase the effectiveness of the OVA or strengthen its veterans' programs.

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANK: Mr. Commander, as a Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Missouri, I move adoption of this report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Do I hear a second?

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: All those in favor indicate by the usual sign, aye; those opposed, no.

The Report of Economics is adopted.

NATIONAL CONVENTION BLOOD DRIVE

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Our National Convention Blood Drive is continuing today in the main lobby.

Our goal for this National Convention is 400 units. For the first two days, we have collected 218 units.

Once again I ask you to donate the Gift of Life to the Central Indiana Region Blood Center, which provides blood to the VA Hospital here, as well as others in the area.

Your donation can make a difference.

What I would like to do is challenge each and every Department to get three people from each Department to donate a unit of blood and that way we will make our goal.

We need three people from each Department to donate one unit of blood.

Like I told you yesterday, I know what it is to use blood, because back in 1969, I had to use quite a bit of it, and if people wouldn't have donated blood, I wouldn't be here.

So if you can, please donate.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce a fellow West Virginian to our stage. He's a man who has served this country with distinction, many times putting his life on the line for future American pilots.

He entered the United States Army Air Corps in 1941 and advanced through the grades to Brigadier General and retired from active service in 1975. From 1945 to 1954 he was an experimental test pilot flying the next generation of aircraft that American pilots would receive. I can't imagine getting into a new experimental aircraft that has never been flown before.

But he did it—time and time again. What he, and men like him, discovered during these test flights—saved lives.

As a young U.S. Air Force Officer, Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, that many aviation experts of the time felt was impossible.

Folks, let's greet the man with many firsts, "Chuck" Yeager, to our 72nd Convention.

CHARLES E. YEAGER **Brigadier General USAF (Ret.)**

Thank you very much. I just happened to drop into Indianapolis last night to participate in a dinner with my old friend, Sheriff Joe McAtee, who happens to be the Sheriff of this county in the land of where you're sitting right now. So, he's a nice guy to know.

But I dropped by just to say thanks for all of the support that you Legionnaires have given us military people since 1919.

I have been involved in a few wars, having flown as a fighter pilot in World War II, and having shot down some 13 airplanes, also having been shot down myself.

And a person like myself really knows what high technology means to a military guy in helping him do his job.

This last Monday morning, I was down at Edwards Air Force Base for the first flight of the advanced technical fighter F-23, which is a really great airplane. I have been working on this airplane for almost four years now, and with that airplane, it will give us the capability of cruising at supersonic speeds without using after burners in the engine, which consumes an awful lot of fuel in current days fighters. And having been involved on the leading technological development for quite some time, I appreciate what you as Legionnaires have done and are still doing today. And obviously it is paying off when President Bush took a force to Saudi Arabia to stop some idiot from trying to steal all of our oil.

He didn't go in with a token force as has happened so many times in the past. He took a force to Saudi Arabia that can back up his words, and it is things like that, that I as a military man appreciate seeing.

We, you and I have been involved in a lot of activity in supporting our country, and all I can say today is, keep up the good work.

We appreciate what you are doing. Have a good Convention.

Presentation

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: General, we thank you so much for stopping by and giving those remarks to us.

It is my privilege to present to you The American Legion Official History. We got this out fresh off the press, and we are very glad for you to have it.

GENERAL YEAGER: Thank you very much. And being a Legionnaire from Post 11, and West "by God" Virginia, I appreciate that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you.

General, we want to thank you for joining us this morning.

I would also like to thank the man who escorted General Yeager to our Convention stage, a Korea-era Veteran, he has been a law enforcement officer, the Indianapolis Chief of Police, and now is the Sheriff of Marion County, Indiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me say this about the guy I am about to introduce. He is a very, very good friend of The American Legion. And he does a lot of work and help for us, and he has been here all week to make sure the Convention is flowing right. And that is the Sheriff of Marion County, Joe McAtee.

JOSEPH McATEE
Sheriff of Marion County, Indiana

Thank you very much, Commander.

This is the first opportunity I have had to publicly welcome our National Commander and all of you to Indianapolis.

My deputies tell me time and time again every day how great you are, and how great it is to have you here, and I second that.

My many friends with The American Legion, and I have been a member a long time and have attended a lot of National Conventions, my friends here in Indianapolis, your National Adjutant among them, will tell you I have two loves, that is Law Enforcement and The American Legion.

And I guess the only other thing I would like to say is that we in Law Enforcement, speaking for my entire Department appreciate your efforts to preserve the integrity of the Flag.

I think when we allow in this country, allow someone to burn the American Flag, we have our priorities mixed.

We appreciate what you have done, and thank you.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Joe. We know that you love The American Legion, and so you, too, we want to present the Official History of The American Legion.

SHERIFF McATEE: Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
1990 Recipient

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time it is a pleasure to make a very special presentation. It is an opportunity for The American Legion to recognise distinguished Americans for their outstanding service to the nation. For 1990 we are honoring a man whose service to mankind has been in keeping with the principles and traditions of our highest award—The Distinguished Service Medal. A World War II Veteran, he is a recipient of The Legion of Merit Award and holds the rank of Colonel, Army of the United States (Reserve).

His exemplary military service during World War II as Director of the Surgical Consultant's Division in the Surgeon General's Office led to the development of mobile Army surgical hospitals—we know them better as "M.A.S.H." Units. The "M.A.S.H." Units have proven invaluable in saving the lives of our wounded combat troops. Survivability greatly increased because the "M.A.S.H." Unit was there.

He pioneered and developed the medical methods, and often the equipment and instruments, which have made open heart surgery possible. Procedures he pioneered accounted for more than 674,000 open-heart surgeries and related heart operations.

He has the enviable reputation as a Medical Statesman, serving as Advisor to almost every President in the past 50 years. In 1969 he received the Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a United States citizen can receive, and he was presented the National Medal of Science in 1987. His leadership helped established the National Library of Medicine in 1949, and he served on the First Board of Regents.

More than 1,200 published medical articles, chapters and books reflect his lifelong commitment to research and public education in the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

Here is a man who has literally touched the hearts of thousands around the world. He has supported the highest principles and objectives of The American Legion through his lifelong dedication not only to the people of this nation, and its Armed Forces, but to the world as a whole, saving countless lives in the process.

Fellow Legionnaires, it is my honor and personal privilege to present The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal to Dr. Michael DeBakey.

MICHAEL E. DeBAKEY, M.D.
Distinguished Service Award Winner
1990 Recipient

Commander Epling, Fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, it is with humility and gratitude that I accept The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal.

I have derived immense personal gratification from my various pursuits, and although awards have not been my objective, recognition of my humble efforts by this distinguished patriotic group has special meaning for me.

My interest in The American Legion dates back many years, since I served in the military service, as Director of the Surgical Consultant's Division in the Office of the Surgeon General during World War II. At that time, realizing that returning veterans would need immediate and long-term quality medical care, I proposed the development of a Veterans Administration medical care network, a proposal that led to the establishment of the Committee on Veterans Administration Problems of the National Research Council. Since then, I have treated thousands of veterans and have served in an administrative capacity on the Committee on Epidemiology and Veterans Follow-up Studies and the Dean's Committee of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston since its inception in 1949. So you see, The American Legion has long been close to my heart.

One of the medical problems I worked on in the Surgeon General's Office was trench foot. In the summer of 1944, I prepared a report on trench foot, frostbite, and cold injuries, in which I explained how these conditions had damaged the military capabilities of soldiers in various campaigns dating back to Napoleon. The effect had been devastating. My experience during World War II convinced me that only if we consistently recorded and analyzed each medical military experience and incorporated in future plans the lessons learned from our analysis would we improve the medical care of our military personnel. That is, after all, the way we practice all medicine.

Within three months of our entry into World War II, a Professional Consultants Division of full-time officers was established in the Office of the Surgeon General. Professional consultants were also assigned to every theater and all the Zones of the Interior, with the responsibility of assessing and evaluating the activities in their area and of making appropriate recommendations. An uncompromising objective of Brigadier General Rankin was to provide American soldiers with the best surgical care possible. The Chief Consultant in the Mediterranean Theater, Colonel Edward Churchill, and in the European Theater, Brigadier General Elliott Cutler, traveled to the war zones, so that their concepts and influence became widely distributed, and, without treating patients themselves, they were responsible for the saving of countless lives.

When I was sent from the Surgeon General's Office to North Africa to be assigned to the

5th Army in consultation with Colonel Churchill to assess experience gained by the Army medical services in North Africa and Italy, I returned with considerable information upon which to base standard procedures for the care of the wounded in battle. The information I brought back allowed us to write T B Med 147 in March, 1945, which was the first comprehensive policy statement on how to treat battle casualties. Once issued, T B 147 became the standard and remain the standard for management of the wounded.

Many principles were established during World War II that could be applied to civilian practice but that otherwise would have required many more year for adoption.

On September 2, 1945, World War II ended rather abruptly after our bombing of Japan. Thousands of casualties in the European and Pacific Theaters began returning home for reparative surgery and rehabilitation. Fortunately, we had had the foresight to establish specialized centers in vascular surgery, orthopedics, plastic surgery, and neurosurgery, all well-manned with civilians. Had these centers not been organized, we would have been caught short, with no cohesive plan for this eventuality.

At the end of the war, many patients given the opportunity of leaving the V.A. were unprepared to care for themselves. It was a crisis situation, with virtually all surgical specialists leaving the Army. Rankin and Carter, for example, had both left, and I remained alone in the Surgeon General's Office. Surgeon General Kirk asked me to stay. Because the regular Army could not take over the crisis, it was decided to ask 100 specialists to remain for another year, caring for the casualties and training the full-time military personnel to take over after that. I called each of the 100 personally with our request, and it is a tribute to their character and commitment that not a single one refused, even though some were professors at major medical schools and had been on military duty, away from home, for four years.

This effort began the training program for medical military officers. General Hawley, Chief Medical Officer of the European Theater, and Paul Magnuson, Chief Consultant in Orthopedics, were brought in to reorganize the Veterans Administration and rapidly prepare it to take over. It was in this endeavor that the concept of the affiliation of the Veterans Administration Hospitals with medical schools originated.

The end of a war does not mean the end of the problems it creates. The injured and disabled still have to be cared for, and the entire experience has to be scrutinized to extract its valuable lessons. When those of us assigned to the Army Surgeon General's Office as consultants traveled to various war zones, we returned with a great deal of data, from which we prepared official papers and documents with recommendations to improve military medicine. Out of this experience came a book called *Battle Casualties: Incidence, Mortality, and Logistic Considerations*, which Gilbert Beebe and I published. Like my colleagues, I published other articles on cold injuries, vascular surgery, war wounds of the chest and extremities, experience with streptomycin in Army hospitals, and, shortly after the end of World War II, on the urgency of an analysis of our national medical resources.

With the end of hostilities, however, there is always such a sense of relief that it lulls us into complacency, and we face the next emergency unprepared again.

The end of the Cold War with the U.S.S.R. and the so-called "peace dividend" were much in the news earlier this year. Instantly, we heard short-sighted demands that the Defense budget be cut, several special-interest groups insisting that those funds be diverted to their respective causes. After too brief an interval of this euphoria, however, the need for the military to remain alert and ready for any national threat or disaster came shockingly home to us with the outbreak of the current Mideast crisis.

Once again, we have failed to heed the lessons of history, which have repeatedly shown that new threats to freedom, security, and national interests may erupt at any time or place. A strong defense is a reliable deterrent to war.

The experiences of World War II obviously cannot be directly transferred to the nuclear age, but neither should they be discarded lightly. If we heed those lessons, and the ones learned in the Vietnam and Korean Wars, we will be better able to deal with new crises, and our civilian and military medical components will be prepared to cooperate in any swift mobilization necessary, as well exemplified in the current situation.

Because of my deep concern about the insidious erosion of the noble values that made our country great, a clear sense of purpose, the pursuit of excellence, pride in per-

formance, self-discipline, self-reliance, justice, brotherhood, patriotism, and integrity, I also want to plead this morning for restoration of the finest of our traditional American principles. Lord Macaulay articulated the same concern when he wrote: "... when a society has entered on (a) downward progress, either civilization or liberty must perish. Either some Caesar or Napoleon will seize the reins of government with a strong hand; or your republic will be as fearfully plundered and laid waste in the twentieth century as the Roman Empire was in the fifth;—with this difference, that the Huns and Vandals who ravaged the Roman Empire came from without, and that your Huns and Vandals will have been engendered within your own country by your own institutions." We do not want that possibility to materialize, and we must, in fact, see that it does not.

Our forefathers displayed extraordinary faith and courage, along with an unusual spirit of adventure, when they left their homes and traveled thousands of miles across land and sea in search of freedom from oppression and of opportunity for fulfillment. Because they recognized that their success or failure in this bold venture was in their own hands, they labored hard and long to provide for themselves and their families. Their determination, industriousness, and faith in themselves and in the future sustained them through hardships, disappointments, and adversity. It behooves us, in an era that has been characterized as egocentric and hedonistic, obsessed with personal privileges and pleasures, to remember that we would not now be enjoying freedom, self-determination, luxurious living, and virtually unlimited opportunity for fulfillment were it not for the perseverance, integrity, compassion, and love of family, fellowman, and country displayed by our forefathers.

We might do well to consider, and recommit ourselves to, certain reliable values revered by our forefathers, self-reliance and personal responsibility. We must not only endorse those qualities, but observe them daily and instill them in our children. Responsibility entails self-discipline, a trait that has lately been ignored, if not scorned, by the free spirits who have urged us to "do our own thing." If "our own thing" is constructive and productive, fine, but if it means drugging our minds, freeloading on society, or engaging in criminal acts, the negative effect on self and society is evident.

Our rights and our freedom do not give us license to do as we wish; they entail serious personal and civic responsibility. Responsibility also means ministering to the needy and helping them, whenever possible, to become self-sufficient and thus to preserve self-respect.

I have been traveling the globe for several decades, and I am convinced that we still have the most desirable country in the world to live in. For that reason, it pains me all the more that we have allowed our confidence, standards, values, and productivity to decline as we have. But I know that we can and will recover all these. The American spirit has made America great, and we can make it even greater if each of us pledges to exercise justice, compassion, self-discipline, and personal responsibility in our daily work and lives. That means shifting some attention from self to the social good. It means practicing conservation of our natural resources. It means giving a full day's work for a full day's pay. It means exercising the right to vote and removing from office irresponsible or incompetent public officials. It means practicing the highest human values ourselves and teaching them to our youth. And it means protecting and defending our country and its finest ideals.

In patriotic zeal, you, The American Legion, have provided us an excellent example to follow, and I take this opportunity to pay my personal tribute to you for your loyalty and devotion to America. Our nation applauds you.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Dr. DeBakey, it is our pleasure to present to you the Distinguished Service Medal.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Dr. DeBakey for your dedicated service to humanity. Not only have the people of our great nation benefited from your dedication, but the people of the entire world have felt your touch, either personally or through those you have trained.

Dr. DeBakey, there is one more presentation that I am proud to make. This is your American Legion paid-up-for-life membership card from the Department of Texas, Post 594.

We salute you. We know of the great work that you do, and we ask that you continue doing it. Thank you very much.

I would also give you a History of The American Legion.

DR. DeBAKEY: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: From the very beginning of The American Legion, women have been involved in every aspect of our campaign for Veterans' benefits; for service to our communities; and providing a better tomorrow for our future leaders, our children.

The American Legion recognizes that women are veterans, too. We are proud to know women have been active in The American Legion before they had the right to vote.

In recent years, one woman has been working to honor the women Veterans of the Vietnam War. She served as a Army nurse in Vietnam, and now she is determined to complete three objectives: To educate the nation about the service of women to this country during the Vietnam War; to locate all women who served; and to place a statue depicting a woman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to introduce this lady to you. She is a dedicated, very hard worker, working very hard for the women in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. She is a Legionnaire from Post 121 in River Falls, Wisconsin. Let's give a great big welcome to Diane Carlson Evans.

**DIANE CARLSON EVANS, R.N.
Vietnam Women's Memorial Project**

Commander Epling, in Vietnam, in a Medical Evacuation Hospital, where I worked, we had a sign on our operating room door. That sign read, "Through this door passes the best damn soldier in the world."

Commander Epling was one of those soldiers.

And Miles, we are very proud of you to know that you went through our door, and that you are here today, one of the leaders of this nation, a shining example to the troops around the world, to the men and women around the world. God bless you, Miles, and God bless all those men and women around the world serving today.

On behalf of The American Legion Daughters, thousands of American daughters, this Memorial to the Vietnam Veterans era will honor them and our brother Veterans and the millions of people who support this effort, and we thank The American Legion. We, the leaders of the project are responsible to you and the people of America, especially our children, to carry this mission through until it is accomplished. And after seven years of long work, we are finally closer.

Since I spoke with you last year, Congress confirmed that the role of women during the Vietnam War is of pre-eminent historical significance to the nation, and passed enabling legislation for the Vietnam Women's Memorial which will be placed near the Wall and the Statue of the three fighting men on the mall in the heart of our nation's capital.

This represents a culmination of several years of work by hundreds and hundreds of volunteers, many of them in this American Legion.

Last week, a week ago on Monday, the Vietnam Women's Memorial project launched its open competition for the design of the Memorial, because as you all know, the design that we proposed was not approved.

The competition marked an opportunity for American citizens, for all American citizens to participate in designing the Memorial, which will be the first monument honoring the women in the Armed Forces in the United States to be placed on the Mall in the nation's capital.

The competition is open to any American who is a citizen, and who is 18 years of age or older.

The jury selecting the design will be comprised of four Vietnam Veterans, two men and two women and five prominent persons from the Design and Arts community.

They will select the design which represents the dignity of the women who served and compliment both the statue of the three fighting men and the Wall. The jury will meet on

November 9th and 10 this fall. The winning design will be announced on Veterans' Day November 11. The design must go through a series of approval by federal decisions, and we must raise at least \$2,000,000 additional to accomplish our mission, and hopefully, dedicate our Memorial on Veterans' Day, 1992.

As you all know, the goal to place the Memorial to honor women Veterans of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial has proven to be a very demanding and arduous task. But we have faith that America wants a place of honor for her women soldiers, and believe that children today need to see that men and women who have served their nation will be remembered and recognized, and that women are equally responsible for the strength of our nation.

Last Wednesday an Army Nurse Corps recruiter called me and left a message on my answering machine asking that I return his call.

Well, given what is going on in the world today, I wasn't surprised, but my first thought was—I'm a little rusty, I am a little old.

But I returned his call, and he said, he told me that there is a shortage of nurses in our country today, and particularly in the military, and he was having a difficult time recruiting them for the Army Nurse Corps.

He said he had heard me speak at Marquette College about women's service to Vietnam, and did I have anything to tell him that he could share with young people today that would inspire them to join.

I said, in five minutes or less? He said, well, more or less. I said well, Sergeant, I am sure you told them all about the benefits, the travel and the experience and the salary and the rank, and he said, oh, yes, Ma'am, they know all of that.

Then I said, well, these young men and women need to read their textbooks, their history books. They need to visit the memorials, and they need to talk to someone who has been there, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Panama and soon the Middle East. They need to be educated.

They need examples, and they need role models, and they need to weigh on a scale, the reason why they should join.

They need to know that fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers were willing to sacrifice several years of their life and maybe life itself for their generation.

Are they willing to do the same for the next generation of children? If not, who will?

If they think they don't have the courage or the pay is not enough to them, or they think they need something else, tell them we learned the price of freedom, which isn't free, and we changed the course of history that none of us knew we could do, unless we were asked to do it, and we quickly learned that it was for money.

We went, not where we wanted to go, nor where the pay was better, but where we were needed.

Tell them that being upwardly mobile meant being mobilized, to save people's lives, and that climbing the corporate ladder meant earning the rank and looking out for the people around you.

Tell them what the baby told the young man who came to him asking for words of wisdom, to best raise the children and influence them in the right direction to become good citizens, they need answers and examples. As Veterans today, we are the examples.

We have the same kind of responsibility that we had as soldiers, to keep America strong, and to keep refurbishing through that wisdom we have gained in these wars.

So for the young men and women today, who are asking questions, and making their career and life choices, there needs to be memorials for them to visit and to learn. That is our future, which is held in the hands of those who care and to serve. We need memorials of places that place the whole nation's concerns, which reminds them that the United States of America didn't just happen.

On behalf of the Vietnam Women's Memorial project, again, I thank all of you, the members and leaders of The American Legion for standing beside us, and for acknowledging women's service as well as recognition, for contributing thousands of dollars from 1984, and by working in our commitment to honor service women. Through this, The American Legion and its Auxiliary, let the world know that America is proud of all of those American women who served beside her men.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It will be built, and I will be delighted to be there when it happens.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I want to present to you the Official History of The American Legion. We are very proud to have you as a member of The American Legion. Thank you.

Our next guest comes to us as the President of the Board of Directors of the group spearheading the effort to build the "Women in Military Service for America" Memorial.

A Retired Air Force Brigadier General, she has an impressive list of firsts to her credit. She was the first and only woman selected for promotion to Brigadier General in the Comptroller Career Field in the Air Force.

She is the first and only woman to command a unit receiving the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the nation's highest peacetime award.

She served as Senior Woman Military Representative to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services from 1982 to 1985. She retired from the Air Force in 1985 and has worked as a consultant with the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization and with industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please welcome to Indianapolis a Legionnaire from American Legion Post 467 in Chrisman, Illinois, Wilma Vaught, Retired Brigadier General.

WILMA L. VAUGHT
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
President—Women in Military Service
for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

It is great to join you for a second time and report on the progress of the Women in Military Service Memorial.

This is the Memorial for all our military women from the Revolutionary War, through World War I, Korea, Vietnam, Granada, Panama, and those serving today all over the world, and particularly in Saudi Arabia.

If any of us had had any doubt about the rightness of working to build this Memorial, let me tell you as we watch the TV screens and read the news, they were erased, as we watched our women come along with our men, say goodbye to their families and their children and then see them in the air and on the ground accomplishing their assigned missions in Saudi Arabia.

And I can tell you that I am as proud as I know you are of each and every one of those young ladies and those young men.

If I had been here two years ago, I would have told you about the purpose of the Memorial and our hope for a site at the Main Gate at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Last year I was able to tell you that we had that site, and we took pride in seeing women registered for the Memorial, and finding out about their stories, and we were able to look forward to seeing the design of the Memorial.

This year, we have a design for the Memorial. It is not approved yet, and the approval process is going to be tough, but we are going to persevere. It is a good design, and we will succeed.

It is going to be a Living Memorial, not just a statue or a monument. It is a cultural educational center, an experience, because people just don't know about what the women have done. And we are going to tell that story.

It is going to have a theater where we have a film going through that story from the Revolutionary War through today, and it will have a computer containing a register with each women's names and photo and the records of her service placed in that register, and this will be the first time in the world that we have created an archive of our military women.

But I want to bring you very briefly up to date on where we are, and what we are doing to make this Memorial a reality.

We have raised almost \$2,000,000, and I want to pay a special thanks to the New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas and Illinois Legion Posts and Departments for their contributions, because they are leading everyone else in the Legion. The Paralyzed Veterans of America just gave us \$100,000.

And on Monday morning, I was so deeply touched when a World War I Women's Army Corps enlisted member gave me \$25,000, raising her personal total to \$65,000. And that reflects the heart and soul that she feels of the need for this Memorial.

The registrations are coming in from women from every branch of the Service, every rank and file, and that reflects what is so very wonderful about the Memorial. It is for all. Some 40,000 have come in thus far.

I am here particularly because we need your help. There are over 1.2 million living women Veterans. We need to find them to tell them about their Memorial and give them the opportunity to register so they can take their place in history.

Many of you at your Legion Posts are already registering the women you know of, but you and your Posts have the names and addresses of women that we don't know where they are, or how to get in touch with. Help us find them. Help us get them.

The challenge before us is to raise about \$15,000,000 in the next 14 months. And we are doing all of those things that people traditionally do to raise money: bake sales; collections; fund-raising events.

We are writing to people and we are doing that direct mail thing, and if you get a letter and it's signed by me and it says "Dear Friend, the world will come to an end if you don't send money," I mean it. Send money.

I have given speeches; I have been on the radio and TV to raise support for this, and we're doing the most exciting thing we have done to date; at the present time we are raffling a million-dollar house in Northern Virginia, and I never expected in my retirement to become an expert on lottery and raffle laws, but if you want to know about it, ask me.

If you would like to know about the raffle, at the Women Veterans desk in the VA Exhibit, we have the flyers on the raffle.

We will be in the combined Federal campaign this fall, so we are very optimistic that come November of 1991 when the legislation expires, we are going to have money.

I want to close today by just telling you in the words of the women what this Memorial is about, because it's such a multi-faceted story of pride; humor; joy; of service not recognized; of accomplishments of a struggle for acceptance; of discrimination and of progress.

I would just mention a World War I woman who told me how she and three other women Veterans were denied permission to march in the World War I Victory Parade in their local community because they were women Veterans. But they staged their own parade on the sidewalk as the official parade went up Main Street. They were not going to be denied recognition.

And then I think the purpose of the Memorial is best epitomized in the words of an Army nurse who served in World War II: "We were in China when the atomic bomb was dropped and the Chinese Nationalists and the Communists took up their war. So we headed home with so many memories, some good, some bad, goodbyes to new friends, and last, goodbyes to the nurses we lost in a plane crash who were buried in the Camelia Grove in Burma. My outlook on life, my priorities all were changed."

After 50 years in nursing I have finally retired, but my military years will live on and they will for all of the others. Yes, I thank God that they will live on in the Women in Military Service Memorial. Let the generations know that the women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom; that our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stood among us, and with victory, our hearts were just as full and beat just as fast; that the tears fell just as hard for those we left behind us. That's the Memorial story. It's yesterday's women of history and it's today's woman of accomplishment. It's tomorrow's military woman in space. It's recognition at last. It's forgotten no more.

Every place I travel I close every speech with the two most important words in my life today, and those words are: Send money. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I know that with your determination you are going to get this Memorial done, too.

GENERAL VAUGHT: You better believe it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: And I think if you just give them an order they would probably do what you tell them.

GENERAL VAUGHT: Send money.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Let me present to you The American Legion History, and it's our pleasure to have you here. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Ladies and gentlemen, our next guest needs very little introduction as he steps to the lectern. He has served The American Legion, the American Veteran in many capacities, not the least, he is a Past National Commander of The American Legion.

He continues to serve his community in the area of Aging, Human Rights, Alcoholism and our Youth.

He is a U.S. Air Force Veteran of the Korean War, and is a member of the Korean War Memorial Advisory Committee.

Let's all welcome a Legionnaire from the Thomas J. Roberts Post 78 in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer.

**JOHN P. "JAKE" COMER (Massachusetts)
Past National Commander and Member
Korean War Memorial Advisory Committee**

Thank you very much. Thank you ever so much, Commander Epling, National Adjutant Bob Spanogle, all distinguished guests here on the stage with me; to all the delegates and alternates and guests that have come home to Indiana.

I would like to first extend the greetings of General Richard G. Stillwell, the U.S. Army Retired, who was the Chairman of our Board, and all members of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Board.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Commander Gierke and also Commander Epling for the two years in a row that they have submitted my name to the President of the United States, until such time as they realized that it was important enough at last to place a member of The American Legion on the Korean War Veteran Memorial Board, and I'm so honored and pleased because of all of your kind words that you have given to me in that regard.

I am going to ask, as other memorials have preceding me, we are not going to be too different, but I am going to say that our Memorial is well on its way and the site has been approved; the design has been approved, and also half of the money is there, and we will be looking for about another five million or six million dollars and we will be working on that in that regard.

In 1987-88, the Legion and the Auxiliary and the SAL and the other great organizations helped us raise \$1,167,000 for the Child Welfare Foundation, and I know that when the monies are finally reported in the history of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, that The American Legion is going to be the largest single contributor as they were in Vietnam, and you are going to make us all very, very proud.

I will be asking all of you and the Department Commanders, if they would not establish a Chairman in each and every Department, and then continue to start working on those funds. There are some inter-Departments that have already begun. Illinois has already contacted me with its Chairman, Dick Soderlund; their pens are already working.

I have heard from New Jersey and Connecticut and so many others.

A resolution to this Convention by the Department of Illinois has said let's finally establish a subcommittee, and all that will be done.

The Department of Maine came right out and said let's just go and send them a million dollars right off. Well, we just cannot do that, but I recommend it, because I know Maine will help me in that endeavor, and they'll be happy with what I have to say because this will be borne by the men and women of The American Legion through your contributions,

private contributions by ourselves so that you can be a part of this beautiful historical monument.

There is another area I am going to ask for your help that has just come about, and that is the Korean War Memorial Commemorative Coin Act. We are going to have one million coins minted once the approval comes through the Congress; it has already passed the Senate. It's well on its way in the House, but the Commemorative Coin Act will be a million coins, and our organization, the Korean War Veterans Memorial will receive \$7.00 from each of those coins. So if we sell them all, \$7,000,000. And it's all going to be needed for what we are doing now, and certainly in the future.

Stop by our booth out by the Emblem Sales where they are showing the Russian trip of Dot Hill and the Band, and there is a booth there for the brochures and how to address the monies. I ask you, when you do, to make sure when you send that check, that somewhere on that check you recognize that it's The American Legion, so the proper credits can be attested.

There is also a jug out there for donations. You know, when we raised that money for Child Welfare and I went into your Departments, we started each and every conference by the monies you contributed to me, and I appreciated it, and I sent them back to National.

Well, I want to do the same thing and bring it on to Washington in a couple of weeks to my meeting, and I want that jug filled, and I know you're going to do that for me.

That Commemorative Coin Bill is so important. I'm going to ask you, please, to talk to me about it out by the booth, but contact your Representatives and your Senators to make sure they push that through, House Bill 5053.

I'll tell you a funny story. You know, the impact of The American Legion, it's always and remains to be great. I put in a personal call to John Rowland from Connecticut, and he got back to me right away and put on as an add to the Bill: I put a call in to Marcie Kaptur of Ohio, and her aide said to me, well, she's on the Floor right now. I said, just tell her that Jake Comer is on the line. And within 15 minutes she was back to my office in Quincy, because this was very important, because she's on the Commemorative Coin Subcommittee, and she would sign on the Bill. Within five minutes she talked to her aide and said go on that Bill. And that's the strength of all of you, because The American Legion is always out there in the forefront, and when you ask the Congress and the Senate to help us, they want to help you and they will.

On June 27, 1953, the guns fell silent over the war-torn Republic of Korea. The cost in human and material treasure was enormous, but Communist aggression had been halted; the rights of 40 million people preserved, and the entire region stabilized. In addition to the United States and South Korea, 20 other nations provided military contingents which served under the United Nations banner.

During the decades that followed, Americans have, over and over again, voiced a desire to memorialize their enduring gratitude to the courageous men and women whose sacrifices made it all possible. Congress provided the long-sought after authorization to establish a Memorial on federal land in the nation's capital.

On October 28, 1986, President Reagan signed into law Public Law 99-572, to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those killed in action, still missing in action or prisoners of war.

So I want to remind you this is only the second time in our nation's history that a Board appointed by the President of the United States has ever been established for any memorial in the history of our country, and that's a great honor and impact that our President has given to this Korean Memorial.

To date, nearly 100,000 contributions totaling over \$6,000,000 of the eleven million estimated cost have been given and deposited in a special U.S. Treasury escrow account, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund. All contributions are secured by the U.S. Government and may be used only for the building of the Memorial, and cannot be diverted for any other purpose, including fund-raising or administration, by Congressional Act. The interest earned is used for administration costs. There is a heavy dependence on probono and in-kind contributions and the use of volunteers.

On September 16, 1988, the choice Ash Woods Site, in close proximity to the Lincoln

Memorial and across from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the historic Mall in Washington, D.C. was officially designated by the Secretary of the Interior, Hodel.

The winning design is a striking combination of sculpture, architecture, and landscape, with its main feature being a combat formation of soldiers moving toward a point of contact on an undefined mission.

A mural will also tell a comprehensive story of the war and give recognition to all who served, men, women, and all branches of the military.

Having gained the necessary preliminary approvals of the cognizant Federal commissions, the Korean War Veterans Memorial is currently in the architectural-engineering phase. Provided the requisite funds are secured, and by Congressional Order, we can't even have the groundbreaking until all monies are in the bank, so the groundbreaking is scheduled for Veterans' Day of 1991, and the target dedication will be the 40th Anniversary of Armistice on July 27, 1993.

I could go on and on, and I know the hour is getting late, and I know the commitment the Commander has with the distinguished guests that are going to follow, so I think I will shut it off at that point and ask all of you or any one of you for any other questions you have, to see me out in the booth for the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

I know that you are not going to let us down. You have never let The American Legion down. You are very special people. You have never given up on this country, and that's the voice of The American Legion, for God and country. Because when we hear, we forget, and when we see, we remember. It's when we do, we understand.

God bless you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Commander Comer.

The American Legion, during its entire history, has been the voice of the American Veteran. The National Rifle Association is another voice that fights for the rights of not only Veterans, but all Americans. The right to bear arms.

He comes to Indianapolis and this Convention as the newly-elected President of the National Rifle Association of America.

He is the Past President of Gun Owners of New Hampshire; a former New Hampshire State Senator, and served in various political positions in his hometown of Hooksett, New Hampshire.

His interest in sport shooting goes back to his days growing up on the family farm that abounded with game and wildlife. He is a Master Class High Power Rifle Competitor, and twice New Hampshire Muzzle Loading Rifle Champion.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome Mr. Richard Riley.

RICHARD RILEY

President, National Rifle Association of America

Thank you, National Commander Miles Epling, Dr. DeBakey, Officers, Members of The American Legion and honored guests.

First let me thank you for the opportunity to represent the National Rifle Association at The American Legion's Annual Convention.

As Americans, we tend to laugh at ourselves; we tell ethnic jokes and we'll tell certain jokes about certain groups and everything, but if there are any lawyers in the Hall, I hope you all won't be offended, because this joke was told to me the other day about a lawyer. It kind of goes with the theme with what went on here today, we had the famous Dr. DeBakey who has done those heart transplants and so forth. We had progressed to the day where we had brain transplants, and this patient was in with the doctor discussing his future prognosis, and the brain transplant, and the doctor said, "I must warn you," he said, "that lawyers' brains are more sensitive than anybody else's." So he said to the doctor, "Is that because they're so smart?" He says, "No, because it takes so many to make a pound."

The Legion represents the best the American spirit has to offer, so on behalf of more than two and a half million members of the National Rifle Association, I would like to commend your organization for its service to this great nation.

As I assumed the duties of the NRA presidency just a few short months ago, it was a

humbling experience since I had to follow in the footsteps of a truly great American hero. General Joe Foss had spent a long and sometimes frustrating term battling for our constitutional rights.

We in the NRA are locked into battle with a foe even more insidious than a Panamanian dictator or an Arab madman. We're struggling against forces right here at home who no longer believe that the Constitution is valid.

We stand in the way of factions who no longer honor American traditions and values. Americans have always held in the highest esteem the traditions of marksmanship. Our relatively short history proudly records the feats and skills of American riflemen during the battles for liberty and justice which we have fought throughout the world. The tradition of the American rifleman lives on.

Would those of you who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, ever have dreamed that future generations would be denied access to the M-1 Garand, M-1 carbine and the AR-15 so familiar to you? Those of you who lived in certain jurisdictions in California have had to face that reality, and there are those who would enact such laws across this land.

All of this has been brought about because of a decadent criminal justice system failed to protect the public from Patrick Purdy, even after he was arrested for at least seven felonies. California's Attorney General and his cohorts try to deny you and future generations of Americans the traditional arms of free men in order to cover up their dismal failure in their charge to protect society from social misfits and known criminals.

Out of necessity, the NRA has evolved into a powerful political organization, and we are constantly attacked because of it. Lies and innuendo fill our newspapers and flash across our TV screens, all because we dare to stand up and say enough is enough.

We believe that the Bill of Rights shouldn't be tossed out the back door like yesterday's garbage. We won't waiver from the fact that the Constitution of the United States guarantees every law-abiding citizen the right to keep and bear arms. We will not let it be eroded by petty political maneuvering or social whim.

Not long ago when American troops were deployed in the Middle East, I found myself contemplating one of the undeniable lessons of history. Evil will always be with us, lurking about, waiting for an opportunity to enslave men.

That is why our soldiers still go to foreign lands to fight against tyranny. History leaves it up to us at home to preserve the individual liberty and the personal dignity they hope to return to. So the NRA carries on the fight here at home.

Millions of NRA members still cherish the rights so many have fought and died for. Our founding fathers said it would always be this way. Constant vigilance, they pointed out, is the price of liberty. We plan to keep that vigil.

We will battle against a criminal justice system that coddles lawbreakers while it seeks to disarm law-abiding citizens. We will fight to block any legislation founded in lies and deceit.

These words may sound old-fashioned to our critics in the media and our opponents in the Legislative Halls across America, but I don't think they will sound old-fashioned to those of you gathered here today.

The sheer strength of our Constitution is displayed in its permanence. It is like a block of granite, impervious to momentary winds and social storms. Those who dismiss such lies should question the citizens of Lithuania or the Chinese students from Tiananmen Square. They have known the rough hand of tyranny. They have watched their hopes and dreams explode into dust. If only they were able they would have embraced our democracy. If nothing else, their plight must always remind us that liberty must never be taken lightly.

In closing, I want to point out with pride that the NRA and The American Legion have long shared a love for, and a commitment to, our free nation and its Constitution. All of us in the NRA were honored several years ago when Former National Commander Dale Renaud established formal relations between our two patriotic organizations. The American Legion is at our side in the fight to protect the right to keep and bear arms. We have cooperated in the establishment of the Legion's extremely successful Junior Shooting Program. We will build even stronger bridges in the years to come.

What we share is basic to the preservation of democracy. Our confined creed is written

in red, white and blue. We have a vision that is also your vision, liberty for our children, for our grandchildren, and for the children that come after them.

We carry on the work forged in the Spirit of 1776. It is both an honor and a duty.

Please continue to join with us as together we do our part in shouldering the load.

Thank you very, very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, very much, Dick, and we appreciate your coming and taking time out of your schedule.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I would like to present to you The American Legion History, and we hope that you will take that to your office.

MR. RICHARD RILEY: Thank you very much, it was a pleasure.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Next, I would like to introduce a lady who has dedicated her life to her country on the public side of the coin. Just over a year ago she was sworn in as the Director of Personnel Management. Leading and managing is her style. Highlights of her career include being the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Director of VISTA, and also Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Division.

She has held four presidential appointments, three of which were confirmed by the Senate, and has worked in 12 Federal Government agencies. From 1977 to 1985, she was a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, and a member of the Adjunct Faculty at the Kennedy School, Harvard University, from 1979 to 1982.

She earned her degree from the University of Minnesota Law School. In 1985, she received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

Please welcome Constance Berry Newman.

CONSTANCE BERRY NEWMAN

Director—U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Thank you very much. It is an honor for me to be here with you today. And in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, a man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country, and he was good enough to be given a square deal afterwards.

Those words sum up America's obligations to our Veterans, their dependents and their survivors.

America owes a debt to all Veterans. That was yesterday, that is today, that will be for all tomorrow.

From Shakespeare, the words, "Pay no debt."

From Newman, "Deeds pay debts."

So I am here today to share with you the fact that the Federal Government recognizes its debt to America's Veterans, and will repay those debts with deeds.

Let me talk first about job opportunities.

The Federal Government is committed to offering as many opportunities as possible to Veterans seeking jobs, just as the Veterans were dedicated to protecting and advancing the American way of life, the Federal Government also will match that dedication in assuring Veterans we see that deserve recognition in Federal employment.

But the Federal Government's commitment to the Veterans' employment goes beyond rhetoric. The numbers show that that commitment is a reality.

The Federal Government continues to be the leader in hiring Veterans. We employ two times the number of any other sector of the economy. Thirty-one percent of the Federal non-Postal work force consists of Veterans, whereas only 14.5 percent of the civilian labor force consists of Veterans.

In addition, the Administration recognizes the special attention and assistance disabled American Veterans need.

We recognize disabled Veterans want for themselves what Americans want, independence, control of their own lives, and integration into the society.

This Administration is committed to bringing all disabled Veterans into the mainstream through employment.

Through the Disabled Veteran Affirmative Action Program, we hope to strengthen the Federal Government's commitment. While the Government does do better than the National Labor Movement as a whole, in fact, we employ Veterans, disabled Veterans at five times the rate, but we must do even better.

I have firmly contacted each and every member of the Cabinet to emphasize our commitment to disabled Veterans, and we are looking for ways in which to improve our progress.

The Veterans Readjustment Reappointment Authority, we know as VRA has helped hundreds of thousands Veterans gain employment, but as more and more Veterans leave the ranks of the unemployed, we are seeing fewer and fewer who are eligible for the program, and that is good news.

Another part of the good news is that President Bush signed the Bill which extended the VRA to run through 1993.

The Bill has also made changes in the program that addresses the needs of the Veterans at hand, to include those in greatest need of help by opening the door to post-Vietnam era Veterans, not previously served.

One way America has, and must continue, to pay the debt, is by strong support for Veterans Preference, long a cornerstone of the Veterans Employment Rights.

The Bush Administration will never remove this cornerstone.

As Director of the Office of Personnel Management, I pledge as follows:

I pledge as the original access, to give honorably discharged Veterans, the widows and the wives of disabled Veterans who themselves are not qualified, preference in employment where Federal funds are disbursed.

You then have the Bush Administration as well as my personal commitment to Veterans' Preferences.

And so that we can be more effective, we are working closely with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and will continue to hold meetings with all of the major Veterans' groups, to talk about any concerns you may have. I am concerned, and I know you are concerned over the changing Federal work force. But more importantly, the impact or the potential impact of the change on Veterans' Preference.

As we approach the turn of the century, about three-fourths of the new entrants into the work force will be women. Minorities will make up a large expansion of the work force. By the year 2000, 15 percent of the nation's work force will be non-white.

So there is no doubt that the number and the influence of women and minorities in the Federal Government will grow a great deal by the year 2000.

This presents a number of challenges to the Federal Government, two of which I will share with you:

First of all, how do we assure that the best and the brightest of the women and minorities will enter the Government?

How do we assure that they will continue to move up the ranks?

With regards to the future of Veterans, the future also offers to all disabled Veterans the opportunity of skills required to perform the new jobs which will be less dependent upon physical capabilities, and more reliant on analytical skills.

In essence, as more operations of Government become automated, the work place of the future will be friendlier to the disabled Veterans.

No matter what strategy the Federal Government takes in providing more opportunity for women and minorities, I assure you that it will be done without tampering with Veterans' Preference.

We have no interest in turning our backs on our Nation's Veterans.

In case you do not understand what I am saying, let me say it one other way.

I am keenly interested in having women and minorities having opportunities to be represented at all levels throughout government, and I will do everything in my power to make that happen. However, I am here to assure you today, that I am not advancing the cause of women and minorities at the expense of Veterans of this nation.

Now another topic of concern to you, the question of downsizing of the military. The

immediate future brings some delicate situations on the military and defense-related Federal agencies.

You are well aware by now of the plans for downsizing the military. The Office of Personnel Management understands that this can be a difficult experience for those who have devoted part of their career to the military, and must now find new employment.

I assure you that everything possible is being done to help those who may lose their jobs, to find new employment in the Federal Civil Service.

We are closely coordinating with the Departments to assure a smooth transition and are working out a placement system where members of the Armed Services, who lost their jobs receive an advantage in being considered for civilian Government jobs.

We have been working with members of Commerce, and the experts in the military for many months to assure that as many displaced employees as possible are able to continue to serve the nation not only for their benefit, but for the very great benefit of our Government.

Now just a few words before I leave about the President, and about the Middle East.

You are among the Americans living who have the greatest understanding of the President. You are among the Americans who understand what this nation must now do to support those who have chosen to defend the nation's interest.

I would like to say that I am among those Americans that I grew up with in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which has grown, and I have served with the different Secretaries, Advisory Committees on women in the military and as Chairmen in 1985.

In both places I learned some of what is required to defend this nation and how important it is for America to support the military during and after service.

I would like to think that the Deputy, Bill Phillips, the Deputy of the Office of Personnel Management of Vietnam Veterans also is among the Americans who understand.

What we at the Office of Personnel Management understand at this time, is that we must support people in the Reserves who have now been called up.

You should know that the Federal Government is the single largest employer of Reservists in this nation. More than 137,000 Federal workers are members of the Armed Service Reserves.

We are doing everything possible to make sure that they and their families are taken care of now while they are helping to stop the aggression in the Middle East.

As an employer, we have a special obligation to Reservists to make sure that they are able to leave their employment temporarily, with the knowledge that their affairs are in order, and their wife protected. That is the least as an employer, that we can do.

Among the steps we have taken in the Office of Personnel Management, is to encourage top management to insure that all who have been called up will have their same job when they return.

We have encouraged agencies to cover the cost of health benefits while the Reservists are serving, and we have made available the Employee Assistance Programs to all Reservists. And I want to add something that was decided yesterday, that even though there may be a need to furlough Government employees because of the problems in the Middle East, we believe that employees performing active military duty should be exempt. The basis for this exemption is the overriding need of the Federal Government for the services of those employees.

The debt this nation owes to its Veterans is clear. America's Veterans have worn the uniform, carried the Flag, fought in defense of the right and the freedom we exercise on a daily basis. For those who have served, we can do nothing less than pay our debt.

Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We want to thank you for the work you are doing with America's Veterans.

I would like to present you with The American Legion Official History to place in your office. We thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time, I would like to call on Legionnaire William Quayle to please come to this side of the back stage area. Legionnaire Quayle.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GOETZINGER: We will have now the National Adjutant for some announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Each and every person in this Convention Hall knows that communicating with the public is an ever changing process.

In the years since The American Legion was founded, we have gone from newspapers to radio to television to satellites.

With this technology, comes new evidence for our organization to reach out and make our story known to more Americans.

Last Saturday, The American Legion held a giant rally for American freedoms and its primary symbol, the United States Flag.

We pledged our support and consistent support for America's sons and daughters now serving in the Middle East.

We believe this event was important, not only for Legionnaires and the citizens of Indianapolis, but for the nation.

Using the newest communication technology, we produced what is called a Video News Release on that event.

This release was made available to every television station throughout this nation by using a satellite link-up, in other words, the news releases were beamed up to a satellite, and most of the TV stations in your own cities could then down-link to you that technology or use it with your news release.

Before many of you get home, your neighbors may be talking about that nationally, or seeing you in that rally.

The new communications process is called a Video News Release, and here is what many of our fellow Americans throughout this country saw Sunday night while they were sitting at home.

... At this time a Video News Release of The American Legion Flag Festival was shown to the delegation.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GOETZINGER: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like at this time to present the new Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Robert Mayne Squadron No. 160 in Roanoke, Indiana, Bob Worrel.

BOB WORREL

Robert Mayne Squadron No. 160, Roanoke, Indiana

Thank you, Officers, Delegates and Alternates, guests to this 72nd National Convention of The American Legion.

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to come before you representing the Sons of The American Legion.

We have just completed another successful year under the leadership of National Commander Charles Bellows.

We are now ready to embark on even higher and more far-reaching goals for our organization. My main objective this year is to secure Americanism as my National Commander's project.

Included in that, we'll be working out a poster size copy of The Star Spangled Banner, including the verses, that through our Squadrons across the country, we will be distributing to schools, to get into the classrooms, to let the young men and women of this country learn and understand and have an appreciation for The Star Spangled Banner.

And also tying in with the Americanism program, people have said before me, and you all have shown through your support for the amendment of the Flag Code, as members of The American Legion, we will not tolerate desecration of the Flag.

Personally, as a young man of ten years of age, I stood along with my family, and saw our Flag draped over the coffin of a loved one that had returned from Vietnam.

I will not personally tolerate anyone desecrating the American Flag.

Another strong commitment that we have is to the youth of this country. Many of you that saw the "Say No To Drugs" button that we have been distributing, and we have been continuing to expand that program and reaching more young people.

We want to let people know that we are there when they need us.

We are there to support them when they have to make the tough decisions.

And along with that, we will help provide options for them.

Included in that, are some of The American Legion Programs, Boys State, the Oratorical Contest, Scouting, and of course, the Sons of The American Legion.

I personally was able to take advantage of many of these programs, and I can proudly say that I am better off for them. And I would personally like to thank you for your commitment to the young people of this country.

In the area of membership, we have just completed another successful year, and had an increase in membership of 13,000 members. But I want to take that a step further. We are currently at 122,000 members. I asked my members to go out and increase that to 150,000. It is a 20 percent increase which some people look at me as if I have lost my mind. And maybe I have. But I know that we can do it through your support and your commitment to us. It will be a very easy goal with your support to attain.

Folks, I am talking about losing my mind. There is another point along this line I need to make to you. As I have just become National Commander, I have made a commitment to my organization, spending the next year traveling the country and promoting our programs.

Four weeks from now, I will be marrying my fiancée, Shelley Rumsey, and well, maybe like I told my Convention, either I am the bravest man alive, or I have lost my mind.

But I have faith in myself and my fiancée, and we are looking forward to traveling and meeting as many of you as we can, and thanking you for the commitment that you have made to us.

But the ultimate responsibility of every member of the Sons of The American Legion is to our Veterans. You have given so much to us. You have sacrificed, put yourself on the line, that when you need us, we will be there for you, for your comrades that are sick, that are in VA Medical Centers across the country.

Our main objective will be to get to those people, and show them our support, and let them know that they are not forgotten.

The Sons of The American Legion will strive each day to make sure that you, the Veterans of our country get the rights and privileges that you so richly deserve.

Thank you very much for your time.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice President of the United States, accompanied by the Commander, Miles Epling.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It is an honor to introduce our next speaker. Those of you from Indiana have known him and his family for years.

He has had a distinguished career in Government, both at the State and Federal levels, beginning in 1971 when he served as an Investigator for the Consumer Protection Division of the Indiana Attorney General's office.

In 1976 our speaker was elected to Congress, and in 1980 he became the youngest person ever elected to the U.S. Senate from Indiana. He was re-elected in 1986.

He was chosen by George Bush to run as his Vice President in 1988. As Vice President, he serves on the National Security Council, and he is the First Chairman of the National Space Council.

The President has named him Head of the Council on Competitiveness, which is responsible for ensuring U.S. International Competitiveness into the 21st Century.

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow delegates, I am proud to present to you the Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Dan Quayle.

THE HONORABLE J. DANFORTH QUAYLE
Vice President of the United States

Miles, thank you very much for that kind introduction, and on behalf of the President,

Miles, let me just say first of all thank you for the service that you have rendered to our country and most recently, thank you for the outstanding job that you have done for The American Legion.

I see our very outstanding Secretary, Ed Derwinski is here and he is doing an outstanding job for President Bush and for all the Veterans of the United States of America.

Now, I have always said upon returning to Indiana that it's great to be back in Indiana. Those of you that live here know exactly what I mean, and I trust all of you that are visiting Indiana are enjoying our Hoosier hospitality.

I would like to begin by emphasizing a couple of very important ties that I have with The American Legion. First, we both call Indiana our home. Second, your fellow Legionnaire is my boss, President George Bush.

I was with the President this morning and I told him that I was coming to Indianapolis to talk to you. And I asked him for a few tips of what I ought to say today. And he told me of the exciting time he had in talking to you two years ago, and he just gave me one word of advice. He said that I should be especially careful if I start talking about Pearl Harbor.

Well, let me say as a Hoosier, I'm especially proud to be able to join you here at your 72nd Convention in your home town of Indianapolis, and I know that Mayor Hudnut has already welcomed you, and I want to welcome you my home state and also my home town of Indianapolis where I was born.

Let me thank you for what all of you have done for this City, this State, and of course this great Nation of ours. Our love for our country is measured by the millions of hours of community service, by the hundreds of gallons of blood you have donated to the Central Indiana Blood Center here, and to hospitals around this country. By your commitment to our future, to the young people of America, from programs for handicapped children to American Legion Baseball to Boys State. And most recently, by your huge outpouring of support for our troops in the Middle East, during your rally this last Saturday.

You, the members of The American Legion, have truly enriched the lives of your fellow Americans in times of war and in times of peace. We owe you an immense debt of gratitude.

All Americans give thanks to those who fought and those who laid down their lives for their country in the defense of freedom, and today, I want to renew our Government's solemn pledge to continue our efforts for the fullest possible accounting of those Americans still missing and unaccounted for.

My friends, much has changed in the world since then Vice President George Bush stood before you two years ago, or even in the last year. In Eastern Europe we have seen tyrants toppled and a Wall in Berlin come tumbling down. In the Soviet Union we have witnessed a remarkable transformation toward greater openness and an increased cooperation with the West. And right here in our own hemisphere we have seen democracy take some giant strides forward.

One set of figures, one set of figures says it all. Ten years ago only 20 percent of the people of Latin America lived under democratic rule. Today, 95 percent of the people of Latin American are free to choose their own government.

Almost the only remaining exception is, of course, Cuba. And let me say as an aside, that in 1987 during the Pan American Games, The American Legion here took a firm and principled stand. You refused to fly the Cuban flag over the sacred ground dedicated to the memory of those brave Americans who gave their lives in defense of freedom. As Indiana's Senator then, and as Vice President now, I supported your justified stand.

When the Cuban people are free, I know The American Legion will be pleased to fly Cuba's flag alongside those of other nations.

Now, many recent world developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and Latin America and elsewhere are very encouraging. They open up a new prospect for a new era of mankind. And we hope for this new era that negotiation and peace will replace intimidation and violence. This is the great dream that has inspired mankind throughout the ages. Today, thanks in large part to American leadership, this dream is closer than ever to realization. But this new international order hasn't come into being yet. Around the world there are those who would destroy this dream if they could. There are still brutal dictators

who prefer the rule of the jungle to the rule of the law. One such dictator is Iraq's Saddam Hussein, a man who rules through terror and slaughter; who has used poison gas against his own countrymen; who invaded Iran in a war that cost the lives of over a half a million people; who plunders tiny Kuwait and threatens Saudi Arabia; who aspires to gain control of oil resources on which the entire world depends for its economic well-being; who threatens his neighbors with weapons of mass destruction and who poses a growing threat to the peace and the stability of the region.

That's why our President, George Bush, has vowed that Saddam Hussein's ruthless aggression against Kuwait will not stand.

The President's objectives are clear: The immediate complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. The security and stability of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, and the protection of American lives of citizens abroad.

With your help and support and the help and support of our many friends and allies, President Bush will achieve those objectives.

He knows it won't be easy. He knows that it may take time, and patience will have to be our virtue. And he knows that sacrifices may be necessary.

Make no mistake about it, what is at stake in the Persian Gulf is nothing less than the shape of tomorrow. This is the first international crisis in the post-cold war era. If Saddam Hussein's aggression remains unchecked, new and more terrible aggressions will surely follow. That is why President Bush has drawn the line in the sand against Saddam Hussein's aggression. Here then is the first lesson of the current crisis. We need to act decisively today to preserve world order for tomorrow.

Well, my friends, there are additional lessons as well, and let me lay a few of them out for you.

One lesson that is confirmed by this crisis, of course, is that President George Bush is a world leader of skill and vision.

Through active diplomacy and decisive leadership, the President has helped rally the world against this aggression. The unity of the world's condemnation of Iraq is truly unprecedented. Just look at what our President has accomplished. Working with the United Nations Security Council, our President has achieved unanimous votes to organize worldwide economic sanctions and to insure their enforcement against Iraq.

Our President has had unprecedented success in persuading the Soviets to join with us in the global condemnation of Iraq. And our President has not only placed U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, but there are ground troops from 11 other nations including nine Islamic nations in the Gulf today. What we are seeing today is the civilized world united against Saddam Hussein.

And this unprecedented unity is in large part due to the decisive leadership and the firm hand of President George Bush.

I have never been prouder than I am today to call President George Bush our Commander-in-Chief.

Another lesson of the current crisis is the continued importance of the United States as a leader of the Free World. All those books and editorials about America's decline in a post-cold war world, turned out to be absolutely false. As the cold war comes to an end, the Free World may be less burdened with fighting Communists' aggression, but there is a new evil, lawlessness and terrorism.

Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait. Threatens its neighbors in the world with weapons of mass destruction, supports terrorism and used Americans and others as human shields. Iraq truly is an outrageous violator of decency and civilized international behavior.

And it falls to America to play a critical role, an indispensable role in upholding global standards of civility and decency.

Still, another lesson of this crisis was drawn by President Bush on August 15th. American leadership, the President told his audience at the Pentagon, is impotent in the absence of American strength. In fact, it was clearly the President's decisiveness, his willingness and ability to put American strength on the line, that convinced other nations to support and to participate in this unprecedented joint action against aggression.

Yes, the cold war is over, but the world remains a dangerous place. We, as a nation, must continue to invest in our national security—because only a strong America can help bring peace to the world.

I'm sure that all of you were dismayed, as I was, when Congress began dismantling the President's Defense Budget last month before going into recess. Nonetheless, most members of Congress say, and we welcome their support for the President's current action in the Middle East. In other words, they want to be defended against the Saddams and the Khadaffis, but perhaps they just don't want to pay for it.

If Congress had its way this past decade on Defense spending, America would be less prepared and less ready for the crisis we face today.

If Congress had prevailed on defense matters, the President would simply have fewer options and less flexibility than he has now.

Quite frankly, I'm grateful for the military buildup that occurred under Republican leadership during this last decade.

Because that buildup gives the men and women in uniform the capability they need for today's crisis. It also makes for a strong America that can help make the world a safer place.

Before Congress left, they eliminated programs, slashed funds and slashed funds for the B-2, the Navy's A-12 program, the C-17 heavy lift cargo plane, the National Aerospace plane, SDI and Mill Star. Congressional Pentagon bashers sight budgetary considerations for these actions. Well, the President has already said that we can do with a smaller force, 25 percent smaller by 1995. The President knows that changes in our defense posture are essential. Freed from the burden of preparing for a short notice global conflict with the Soviets, we can now shape our forces more to the needs of peacetime presence and regional contingencies. And we can and we will restrain our defense spending. But we do need a sound military budget and an adequate investment in our national security.

We need ready and competent active forces that can operate in austere environments like that of the Arabian Peninsula. We need sea and aircraft capacity to get our forces where they are needed when they are needed. We need forces well suited to the technological revolution that we see ahead. And we need to continue to invest in R and D, and field promising new systems when they are ready.

The impressive performance we have witnessed over the past three weeks would not have been possible ten years ago when we had neither the transportation capabilities nor the standard of readiness we have today. It is our obligation to make sure we still have that capability ten years from now. The dangers may be unpredictable, but we know they will be there. That's why we must continue to invest in our Nation's security. And that's why President George Bush will not permit some in Congress to short change our men and women in uniform.

Still another lesson of the current crisis is the absolute necessity of the strategic defense initiative.

Last May, Saddam Hussein stated, and let me quote directly, "Our missiles cannot reach Washington, but if they could, we would hit there as necessary." A direct quote.

I predict that as the reality of this threat sinks in, and as more and more nations join the ballistic missile club, you will be hearing greater appreciation of the case for defense against ballistic missiles.

Let me be clear. If the Saddam Husseins of the future acquire long-range ballistic missiles, our freedom of action will diminish radically unless we can defend ourselves. And we will need to be able to protect not just our homeland, but also our troops in the field, with defenses against tactical range ballistic missiles. And as the U.S. looks into the future, we see that at least six developing regional powers could have international range ballistic missile capability by the turn of the century.

Imagine how different today's crisis would look if Saddam Hussein's already formidable arsenal of mass destruction also included nuclear weaponry. What if Saddam Hussein had ballistic missiles that could hit the United States of America? What if Saddam Hussein not only had these inter-continental ballistic missiles, but had a nuclear delivery system as well? Not a pretty picture, is it? That's why the President thinks strategic defense makes more sense in the 1990's than ever before.

And that's why we would continue our work to slow and stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them.

Finally, the most important lesson we should draw from the Gulf crisis is that the world does remain a dangerous place. History has a way of springing all sorts of surprises on us. Some of these surprises, like the amazing turn of events in Eastern Europe in 1989 are very positive. Others like Iraq's sudden invasion of Kuwait threaten our most vital interests. But one thing is clear, whatever history holds in store for us, we and the world will be better off if America remains strong and engaged.

President Bush said it best, speaking to The American Legion two years ago in Louisville, he said peace through strength is not just a slogan, it is a lesson learned through the years sometimes with the blood of brave men and women.

Since coming to office, President Bush has demonstrated that he learned this lesson well. He knows that America's strength is a force for good in the world and he is determined to keep us strong. And because of his leadership and our common determination, America will overcome the new threats and the new dangers that challenge our central values today and could threaten our way of life tomorrow.

We are the people of the greatest nation in the world. We want peace. We want freedom. We want safety for our citizens here at home and those abroad. And we will remain determined to achieve our goals of peace and freedom.

Thank you for your help. Thank you for your contributions, and God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Mr. Vice President, I would like to present to you now The American Legion Official History. We hope you will take it back and keep it in your office and check on us and read up on The American Legion and find out that we support national security very strongly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Chair recognizes Chester Stellar of Ohio, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, for the purpose of making a report.

**Report of
NATIONAL CONVENTION
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Chester F. Stellar (OH), Chairman**

Eighty-eight members of your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation met at 9:00 a.m. on August 26, 1990 in Room 204 of the Indiana Convention Center, and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Committee was called to order by John F. Sommer, Jr., Ohio, Liaison Representative appointed by the National Adjutant to act as temporary chairman. Frank C. Buxton, Deputy Director, VA&R Commission, acted as temporary secretary and called the roll. A quorum being present, nominations were received for permanent chairman. Chester F. Stellar, Ohio, Chairman of the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Convention Committee.

With unanimous consent, the Chairman appointed Pat Phillips, Georgia, as Committee Secretary; Tracy Taylor, Florida, Chairman, and Bettie Andrews, Iowa, Secretary, respectively of the Medical and Hospital Subcommittee; and Vollie McCollum, Tennessee, Chairman, and Ray Cliver, Texas, Secretary, respectively of the Claims and Rating Subcommittee.

Subcommittee liaison assignments were as follows: John F. Sommer, Jr., Director, and Frank C. Buxton, Deputy Director, to Medical and Hospital; and Philip R. Wilkerson, Assistant Director for Information Management, and Carroll Williams, Assistant Director for Program Management, to Claims and Rating.

As has been the custom for the 46 previous National Conventions, a special Department Service Officers Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions, in a 3 day pre-convention meeting, screened and grouped the resolutions. A report of their analysis, with recommendations, was presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.

The Convention Committee expressed appreciation of the fine work performed by this Screening Committee in analyzing the resolutions. They conserved the time of the Con-

vention Committee substantially. The Screening Committee was composed of the following Department Service Officers.

- Region 3—William Metcalf, Kentucky
- Region 4—Grady "Wes" Vaughn, Texas
- Region 5—Lee Murry, Wisconsin
- Region 6—James Deremo, South Dakota
- Region 7—Al Krank, California

The Convention Committee recommends that such a Committee be appointed for this purpose to serve the Seventy-third National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The 115 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions presented for consideration of this Convention were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee from 31 Departments. 1 resolution emanated from the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. These resolutions are classified as follows:

Policy	53
National Cemeteries	9
Medical and Hospital	21
VA Hospitals	3
Claims and Rating	24
Insurance	4
DOD	1

The following action on the resolutions was taken by the Convention Committee:

Approved or Approved as Amended	45
Consolidated with resolutions Approved	15
Referred to the Standing Commission	35
Received and Recorded	0
Rejected	20

A report of action taken on the 35 resolutions referred to the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission will be made to the National Executive Committee and to the Adjutant of the Department concerned, and, in addition, will be contained in the National's Adjutant's report to the Seventy-third Annual National Convention.

In each category, the resolutions are arranged in sequence to permit orderly consideration of related topics by this Convention.

Approved or Approved As Amended Resolutions Policy

Resolution No. 32 (South Dakota) Subject: Oppose Any Proposal That Would Consolidate or Centralize Operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices

WHEREAS, VA Regional Offices were established to provide a more expeditious method of providing services to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, Because of federal budgetary restrictions, VA Regional Offices are presently encountering difficulties in providing such services; and

WHEREAS, Any consolidation or reassignment of workload in VA Regional Offices would seriously inhibit and disrupt the veteran's ability to receive timely and responsible services from VA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion oppose any proposal to centralize or reassign veterans' claims processing services.

Consolidated with this resolution are: Nos. 78 (ND); and 216 (MN).

Resolution No. 33 (South Dakota) Subject: Oppose Any Administrative or Legislative Proposal to Dilute or Eliminate any Provision of the Disability Compensation Program or Any Other Benefit Currently Payable to Veterans

WHEREAS, Chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, sets forth a program of compensation for service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Specific sections of Chapter 11 pertain to presumptions relating to certain diseases and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Presumptive service connection was first established as an important feature of the World War Veterans Act of 1924, adopted June 7, 1924; and

WHEREAS, Liberalizing and amendatory legislation was adopted by subsequent sessions of Congress, with The American Legion taking a leading role in the development and implementation of the improved laws; and

WHEREAS, The current disability compensation program has proven to be a fair and equitable manner in which to indemnify veterans suffering disabilities that are incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval or air service; and

WHEREAS, In a landmark decision of the Supreme Court on May 23, 1983, Justice William H. Rehnquist stated as follows:

"Veterans have been obligated to drop their own affairs and take up the burdens of the nation, subjecting themselves to the mental and physical hazards as well as the economic and family detriments which are peculiar to military service and which do not exist in normal civil life.

"Our country has a long-standing policy of compensating veterans for their past contributions by providing them with numerous advantages. This policy has always been deemed to be legitimate.";

and

WHEREAS, The American Legion embraces the intent of this eloquent statement as it echoes the long-standing philosophy of this organization; and

WHEREAS, In July 1989, the United States General Accounting Office published a report entitled "Law Allows Compensation for Disabilities Unrelated to Military Service"; and

WHEREAS, Said report states that current law does not require VA to determine if military service was a contributing factor in the cause of a disease, and that it only requires that the disease become manifest at the time of military service; and

WHEREAS, The GAO Report also reflects that the Congress may wish to reconsider whether these diseases should be compensated as service-connected disabilities, and if it decides that these diseases should not receive compensation, the Congress might have to redefine "service-connected" to require a direct casual link to military service, as opposed to medical developments coincident with service; and

WHEREAS, An internal VA task group on benefit reform has been conducting an esoteric evaluation of recommendations that are similar or identical to those contained in the GAO Report, as well as other proposals to reduce or dilute benefits that are currently provided by a grateful nation to its veterans, and their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is totally supportive of every benefit that is currently provided to veterans, as each of them had a purpose when enacted, and each has proven currently to be meeting a legitimate need of the veteran population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion oppose any administrative or legislative proposal to dilute or eliminate any provision of the disability compensation program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose the elimination or reduction of any other benefit that is currently provided to the veterans of this nation, or to their dependents and survivors.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 213 (MN).

Resolution No. 102 (Ohio) Subject: Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to Plan and Develop a Comprehensive Health-Care Program and Related Services for Atomic Veterans

WHEREAS, Public Law 97-72 provides that veterans exposed to radiation during active duty may be furnished hospital or nursing home care for any disability, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such disability may be associated with such exposure; and

WHEREAS, The provision of such health care services has been limited primarily to veterans suffering from cancer or thyroid nodules; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion firmly believes that the criteria for VA medical treatment provided radiation exposed veterans should be liberalized to include treatment for all diseases except congenital or developmental abnormalities and acute conditions that are obviously not caused by such exposure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide inpatient and outpatient medical care authorized under PL 97-72, to any honorably discharged veteran who was exposed to ionizing radiation during active military service, and who has incurred a disability or disabilities other than those diagnosed as a congenital or developmental abnormality or acute condition that is obviously not related to radiation exposure.

Resolution No. 105 (Ohio) Subject: Support the Findings of The American Legion and Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Study

WHEREAS, The United States Government, through the Department of Defense, used the chemical herbicide commonly known as Agent Orange and other defoliants throughout Vietnam during the years 1962-1971, to defoliate jungle and rice paddies; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of service personnel serving in Vietnam were exposed to these toxic chemicals and have subsequently developed skin conditions, cancers, neurological disorders, liver dysfunction, severe depression and other life-threatening diseases; and

WHEREAS, The American Psychiatric Association officially recognized Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a diagnosable condition in February 1980; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of veterans exposed to combat and other life-threatening experiences have exhibited the symptoms of PTSD; and

WHEREAS, The epidemiological study of the long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure mandated under Public Law 96-151 in 1979 became mired in bureaucratic inertia; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, in January 1983 became impatient with the Federal Government's foot-dragging on this important issue and joined with two respected scientists to initiate The American Legion and Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Study; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the study was to look at a wide variety of medical, psychological and socio-economic issues that were facing Vietnam veterans, including the health effects of Agent Orange exposure and the incidence of PTSD in the study population; and

WHEREAS, A pilot study was carried out in South Dakota and subsequently with the assistance of trained Legionnaires, the subject identification and information gathering phases were carried out in the Departments of Colorado, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland; and

WHEREAS, A great deal of time and effort was involved in the information gathering and data analysis; and

WHEREAS, On November 11, 1988 the findings of the study, as set forth in five reports included in the scientific journal ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH were released to the public; and

WHEREAS, Said findings demonstrated that exposure to Agent Orange does cause physical problems, it can be adequately matched by comparing troop movements with spray missions, and that a significant number of Vietnam veterans were sufficiently exposed to Agent Orange to carry out a study, all of which contradict the position set forth by the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, A certain official of the Centers for Disease Control has taken it upon himself to use any means available to criticize, downplay and dispute the findings of The American Legion and Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Study; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has seemingly adopted the position set forth by CDC, and therefore continues to avoid its responsibility to Vietnam veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion will not tolerate such performance by any official or

officials of the Federal Government, regardless of the agency under which they are employed; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion takes great pride in the fact that the findings of its research are an important and meaningful contribution to the body of literature on the effects of the Vietnam War; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion stands behind and totally supports the results of this study as they were published in the December 1988 issue of ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this organization, which is totally committed to Vietnam veterans, their families and survivors, will use the findings of The American Legion and Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Study in its continuing efforts on behalf of those who still bear the burden of their war service; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will continue to involve itself in administrative, legislative, scientific and other efforts on behalf of Vietnam veterans who have incurred diseases and physical and psychological disabilities such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will thoroughly investigate the manner in which the Centers for Disease Control developed the position that a valid study of the health effects of Agent Orange cannot be carried out, and the manner in which CDC spent millions of taxpayers' dollars that were appropriated by the Congressional Committees for the study mandated by PL 96-151.

Resolution No. 106 (Ohio) Subject: The American Legion Policy on Exposure to Ionizing Radiation

WHEREAS, During the period of 1945-1962, according to the Department of Energy, there were approximately 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the U.S. and the Pacific, which involved approximately 347,000 persons, most being active duty service personnel; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of veterans who were present at these tests have subsequently developed leukemia, thyroid conditions, and other similar diseases which, based on scientific evidence, are linked to their exposure to radiation in service; and

WHEREAS, Until recently it was virtually impossible to properly develop radiation related claims as a result of the reluctance of some agencies to relinquish information to individual claimants and accredited representatives, and the fact that VA regional office personnel had not been adequately instructed in the preparation of these cases; and

WHEREAS, Some improvements have been made through the efforts of the Defense Nuclear Agency and its subordinate Nuclear Test Personnel Review Programs in each military service in the reconstruction of dose levels for individual veterans; and

WHEREAS, In many cases, however, the dose reconstruction is based on methodology and assumptions because film badges and other historical data are scarce to non-existent; and

WHEREAS, A previously existing legal recourse, which allowed Atomic Veterans to sue for damages resulting from inadequate precautionary measures and other alleged negligence on the part of federal contractors while conducting nuclear weapons tests, was nullified by an amendment to the FY 1985 Defense Authorization Act, PL 98-525; and

WHEREAS, There exists a need for substantive research and follow-up studies on the issue of exposure to ionizing radiation and its effects on veterans, as there is a paucity of meaningful research that has been accomplished to date, and most studies that have been completed include disclaimers that statistically significant findings are not proven to be related to radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is actively involved in locating veterans who participated in any atomic tests while on active duty, assisting such veterans in the filing and development of appropriate claims for benefits under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and advising them of possible eligibility for treatment at VA medical care facilities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 100-322 did provide certain presumptions related to disabilities resulting from exposure to ionizing radiation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to restore the legal course of action against allegedly negligent federal contractors that was available to Atomic Veterans prior to the enactment of PL 98-525; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Executive Branch and the Congress of the United States to place a high priority on research relating to the long-term health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation on those veterans who were exposed while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion closely monitor the development of all ongoing research on the effects of radiation exposure and point out to the proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in such projects; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion disseminate the most current responsible information relating to exposure to ionizing radiation to Legionnaires, Atomic Veterans and their families, and the public through all resources available to transmit such information.

Resolution No. 107 (Ohio) Subject: Support NEC Resolution No. 44—Law-suit Against the United States of America, CDC, et al

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since 1978, has been actively involved in attempting to convince the United States Government to meet its responsibilities to Vietnam veterans and their families by determining the long-term health effects of exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange, as well as other defoliants used during the Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was initially strongly supportive of the studies and research projects on Agent Orange that were initiated by VA, the Centers for Disease Control, the Air Force, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, et al, some of which were mandated by Congress; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has continuously urged the federal government to proceed without delay using all resources available, to ascertain the effects of Agent Orange and its contaminant dioxin on those veterans who were exposed to it during their active military service; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has failed to carry out the Congressionally mandated study it assumed responsibility for from the Veterans Administration in 1983, and has reported incorrect and unscientific findings relating to this and other research projects; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 44 during its May 2-3, 1990 meeting which authorizes The American Legion to file a lawsuit to be brought against the United States of America, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Veterans Affairs, et al, to compel the completion of the epidemiological study of Vietnam veterans that was mandated by the enactment of Public Law 96-151; provides specific instructions relative to the filing of such lawsuit, and authorizes a specific amount of funding for the initial expenses of filing the suit and paying discovery costs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is further mandated by 1989 National Convention Resolution No. 216 to thoroughly investigate the manner in which the Centers for Disease Control developed the position that a valid study of the health effects of Agent Orange cannot be carried out, and the manner in which CDC spent millions of taxpayers' dollars that were appropriated for the study mandated by PL 96-151; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, as the nation's largest veterans organization and a preeminent advocate for veterans who are suffering as a result of their exposure to Agent Orange, is obligated to ensure that the federal government meets its responsibilities to Vietnam veterans and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion fully support and endorse the intent of Resolution No. 44, adopted by the National Executive Committee during its May 2-3, 1990 meeting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion take all steps necessary to ensure that the federal government meets its obligations and responsibilities to those Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and are now suffering the consequences, and to the families of those who are now deceased.

Resolution No. 139 (Wisconsin) Subject: Oppose Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Services and Research Administration Contracting-Out of Services Deemed Essential for Delivery of Integrated Quality Medical Care to Eligible Veterans

WHEREAS, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76, dated March 29, 1979 as revised, established for Federal Agencies "Policies for acquiring commercial or industrial products and services needed by the Government"; and

WHEREAS, The present Administration instructed all Departments and Agencies to implement Circular A-76; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that Circular A-76 impacts seriously on the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Services and Research Administration (VHS&RA); and

WHEREAS, The Congress responded to the critical situation that was developing in connection with implementation of the OMB policy by passing legislation that was enacted into law which prohibits use of funds appropriated for VA medical care delivery to carry out cost comparison studies for Circular A-76; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget is circumventing the intent of Congress by continuing its efforts to impose contracting-out on the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration; and

WHEREAS, It is the judgment of The American Legion that the commercial contracting-out of services provided to veterans by VA (VHS&RA) has adversely affected the quality and timeliness of care delivered to sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion opposes and will continue to oppose those efforts of the Office of Management and Budget that tend to fractionate the Department of Veterans Affairs as the sole Federal Agency responsible for the delivery of quality hospital and medical service to the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion vigorously oppose VA contracting-out of services or activities deemed essential for retention in VA medical care facilities in order to insure the timely delivery of quality health care to the nation's veterans.

Resolution No. 141 (Wisconsin) Subject: The American Legion Policy Regarding Federal Social Security Programs

WHEREAS, Social Security is a contributory program established for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to eligible individuals in their status as citizens of the United States, and regardless of their status as veterans of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid are not veterans assistance programs, and therefore, are not germane to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30, approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during its November 1957 meeting, declared it to be the policy of The American Legion to:

"1. Oppose any legislative or administrative attempts to merge programs administered by the Veterans Administration with Federal Social Security benefits programs; and

"2. Sponsor or support only such amendments to the Social Security Act as would correct defects or deficiencies in the Act which affect veterans, their dependents, or in-service personnel"; and

WHEREAS, Any change to the Social Security laws, whether by legislative or administrative action would have no effect on benefits payable to pension recipients under Public Law 95-588, because of the manner in which the program is structured by the language included in such law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion does hereby reiterate its policy regarding Social Security Programs, to wit:

1. The American Legion shall oppose any legislative or administrative attempts to merge programs administered by VA with Federal Social Security benefits programs; and

2. The American Legion shall sponsor or support only such amendments to the Social Security Act as amended as would correct defects or deficiencies in the Act which affect veterans, their dependents or in-service personnel; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall not adopt positions relating to programs

operating under the Social Security Act as amended unless such programs directly affect veterans and their dependents as a class.

Consolidated with this resolution are: Nos. 42 (AL); 250 (UT); 390 (MO); 468 (ME); 485 (IA); and 534 (CA).

Resolution No. 223 (Kentucky) Subject: The American Legion Policy on Presumptive Disabilities of Former POWs

WHEREAS, In its concern for the welfare of all those who have served in the nation's Armed Forces, one of the major concerns of The American Legion has been the welfare of those who have been prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported various legislative measures intended to alleviate the disabilities that afflict former POWs as a result of experience during internment; and

WHEREAS, Most recently The American Legion supported enactment of Public Law 97-37, the Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981, approved August 14, 1981, and the presumptions included in Public Law 100-322; and

WHEREAS, There are now surviving approximately 73,400 former POWs of the four American Wars of the Twentieth Century; and

WHEREAS, Continued observation of their condition during the years subsequent to their internment indicates additional health problems probably associated with the internment; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a fundamental obligation to do all possible to alleviate any and all health problems of former POWs, and see to their physical, social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, There is an apparent need to further modify the current provisions of title 38, United States Code, that provide for former POWs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend section 312 of title 38, United States Code, in such a way as to provide presumptive service connection for the following conditions in the absence of demonstrable intercurrent disease or injury:

1. Hepatitis or other infectious diseases of the liver;
2. Organic residuals of hypothermia, e.g., trench foot, immersion foot or hand, Raynaud's Disease;
3. Arthritis;
4. Chronic pulmonary disease (where there is a history of forced labor in mines during internment); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support amendment of section 612(b)(1)(G) of title 38, USC, to strike out the words "ninety days" and insert in lieu thereof the words "thirty days,"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall support any and all efforts on the part of the United States Government to alleviate and ameliorate social, economic and physical disabilities experienced by former POWs where such disabilities can reasonably be attributed to the effects of internment by the enemies of the United States.

Resolution No. 392 (Missouri) Subject: Urge the Congress and the President to Provide Sufficient Health Care Funding for Veterans

WHEREAS, The right of veterans to preferred treatment as a special class by reason of their military service has been long established as public policy supported by specific legislation extending throughout the history of our country; and

WHEREAS, Each time there is an austerity program within the Federal Government, systematic attempts are made to reduce appropriations for Department of Veterans Affairs programs; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs was especially created to coordinate and consolidate Federal activities in the administration of laws providing benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, Provision of title 38, United States Code, provides the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, within the limits of VA facilities, to furnish needed hospi-

tal care to any veteran for a nonservice-connected disability if such veteran is unable to defray the expense of such hospital care; and

WHEREAS, There is a developing need for VA to undertake expansion of existing facilities, especially clinics, and to utilize innovative measures being developed in the fields of medical technology and therapeutic modalities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States to provide sufficient funding to enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to utilize all modalities available in the health care field, to assure available care for the maximum number of veterans who need and apply for such care.

Resolution No. 430 (Iowa) Subject: Urge The President Of The United States and The Congress To Provide Full Funding For All Veterans Programs

WHEREAS, The Act of July 3, 1930, authorized the establishment of the Veterans Administration as an independent agency in the Executive Branch of the Government; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was especially created to coordinate and consolidate Federal activities in the administration of laws providing benefits for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The laws administered by VA authorizing benefits for former members of the Armed Forces, for their dependents and for beneficiaries of deceased former members of such forces are classified into the following general categories:

- Compensation for service-connected disabilities and death
- Pensions for income maintenance of veterans and survivors
- Educational and training assistance and loans
- Servicemen's Life Insurance—Veterans Life Insurance
- Hospital and medical care services
- Nursing home and domiciliary care, including State Veterans Home construction funds
- Health manpower training
- Medical and prosthetic research
- Burial benefits; and

WHEREAS, VA compiled and projected statistics indicate that nearly 28 million veterans have potential eligibility for benefits of one type or another, and counting dependents and survivors that about 44 percent of the total population of the United States are potential recipients of benefits and associated services administered by VA; and

WHEREAS, Any reduction in appropriations and outlays for VA recommended by the Office of Management and Budget may be affected only by cutting service to eligible veterans in the areas associated with medical care, medical administration, medical and prosthetic research, general operating expenses (the fund account providing administrative and operating expenses of the Adjudication Services), and delay needed modification, modernization, and construction of hospital and nursing bed care facilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion call to the attention of the President of the United States, and of Congress that the benefits provided by law to veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries, are in fulfillment of a sacred obligation of the nation to its defenders, and are not to be sacrificed on the altar of fiscal austerity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion make known to all officers of government that it stands for full funding of veterans programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the President of the United States and the Congress to assign the highest budgetary priority to the provision of funds for the administration and delivery of veterans benefits, and all activities appertaining thereto.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 211 (MN).

Resolution No. 443 (Virginia) Subject: The American Legion Policy On The Co-Location Of Veterans Benefit Administration Facilities

WHEREAS, VBA carries out its activities through 59 Regional Offices with at least

one located in every State, and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through its accredited representatives, provides much needed assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in the development and presentation of claims for VA benefits at the Regional Offices; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to reduce unnecessary expenditures, and to counter increasing rent costs, several Regional Offices have been co-located with VA Medical Centers; and

WHEREAS, Studies are being conducted at several additional locations to determine the feasibility of co-location which, if found to increase efficiency, would take place during the period from 1988 through 1991; and

WHEREAS, It has been the experience of The American Legion that the co-location of Regional Offices to Medical Center complexes that have been implemented to date are providing accessible one-stop service to veterans, and desirable working conditions for Department Service Officers and VA employees; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that a co-location plan that takes into consideration the availability of transportation and the accessibility of facilities for VA beneficiaries, particularly the disabled and elderly will prove to be a cost-effective means of providing service to veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion, based on a case by case review, support those proposals to co-locate Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices and Medical Centers where such combination of activities will provide maximum accessibility and convenience to veterans, dependents, and survivors, and that will be cost-effective through the combination of administrative and support services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any such proposal that is inconsiderate of the needs of VA beneficiaries for adequate transportation and immediate accessibility, and that would not be situated at a location that would provide maximum availability of personal services to the veteran population residing in the jurisdiction of the Regional Office.

Resolution No. 444 (Virginia) Subject: Oppose Taxing Compensation Payments Paid by Department of Veterans Affairs to Service-Connected Disabled Veterans

WHEREAS, The Administration's Tax Reform Plan had originally included a provision to tax VA compensation payments to service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The current rates for compensation benefits are predicated upon the fact that such benefits are not subject to taxation; and

WHEREAS, Taxation of such VA benefits would adversely affect the financial security of our nation's disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Taxation of veterans' compensation would represent a breach of faith with this category of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions have been passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate expressing the sense of Congress that VA compensation should not be taxed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion totally oppose any initiative to tax compensation payments paid by VA to service-connected disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 445 (Virginia) Subject: The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange

WHEREAS, The chemical herbicide commonly known as Agent Orange was sprayed throughout Vietnam during the years 1962-1971, to defoliate jungle and rice paddies; and

WHEREAS, The total long-range toxic effects of the defoliant, of which in excess of 10.6 million gallons were reportedly expended by American military forces, remain virtually unknown; and

WHEREAS, The chemical mixture of 2, 4-D and 12, 4-5-T, which contains a certain amount of the chemical dioxin, has been subjected to partial bans by the Environmental Protection Agency following reports of spontaneous abortions and stillbirths in areas where heavily used in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of service personnel serving in Vietnam were exposed to these toxic chemicals and have subsequently developed cancer, neurological disorders, liver dysfunction, severe depression, and other life-threatening diseases; and

WHEREAS, These veterans are now seeking benefits from VA, to which they believe they are justly entitled, by reason of disease and disability incurred through exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been strongly supportive of the studies and research being conducted by the Air Force, the Centers for Disease Control, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, the Department of Veterans Affairs, etc., on Agent Orange, and has urged the Federal Government to proceed without delay using all resources available, to ascertain with scientific validity the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who were exposed to it during their active military service; and

WHEREAS, The study of long-term effects of Agent Orange exposure that was mandated by Congress in 1979, and turned over to the Centers for Disease Control by VA in 1983, became mired in major methodological problems; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has now concluded that the agency cannot find enough Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange to do a scientifically valid study of the herbicide's effects on humans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is troubled by CDC's conclusion, particularly since a substantial percentage of the original study subjects were disqualified based upon criteria set forth by CDC; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is aggressively assisting and counseling veterans in the filing and development of claims for benefits provided under title 38, United States Code, and referring those individuals claiming exposure to the persons responsible for the Agent Orange examination program at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic for an appropriate examination; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 98-542, the "Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act", provided the Department of Veterans Affairs with the authority to determine the disabilities related to Agent Orange exposure based on its interpretation of scientific and medical evidence; and

WHEREAS, The only conditions that have been recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs since the law was enacted in 1984 are the skin condition chloracne, if it is manifested not later than three months from the date of the veteran's exposure to Agent Orange, and soft-tissue sarcomas, because the Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards has not recommended any additional diseases to the Secretary; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of Vietnam veterans have expressed displeasure with the manner in which they were attended to during their Agent Orange examination at a VA medical facility; and

WHEREAS, The Administration has held that disability and death benefits emanating from the out-of-court settlement of the class action litigation against the companies that manufactured Agent Orange will be counted as income for the purpose of Medicaid, SSI and Aid for Dependent Children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion thoroughly investigate the manner in which the Centers for Disease Control developed the position that a valid study of the health effects of Agent Orange cannot be carried out, and the manner in which CDC spent millions of taxpayers' dollars that were appropriated by the Congressional Committees for the study mandated by PL 96-151; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion vigorously support the liberalization of the rules relating to the evaluation of studies involving exposure to dioxin and those relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs' adjudication of claims based upon Agent Orange exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and other disabilities that are found to be based on Agent Orange exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion closely monitor the development of all ongo-

ing research on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure and point out to the proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in these projects; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion bring to the attention of the Department of Veterans Affairs and its Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards, any and all information and scientific and medical evidence relating to possible adverse health effects of exposure to Agent Orange for the purpose of expanding the list of disabilities for which service connection may be granted; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion disseminate the most current responsible information on Agent Orange to Legionnaires, Vietnam veterans and their families, and the public through all resources available to transmit such information; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to make careful observation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Agent Orange examination program to determine whether or not Vietnam veterans reporting to VA medical care facilities claiming exposure are being appropriately examined, and that the examining physicians demonstrate both compassion and thoroughness in the way they receive, examine and treat all Vietnam veterans who present themselves alleging dioxin exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to exclude payments from the Agent Orange disability or death payment plan as income for the purpose of any needs-based or means-tested benefit program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend section 6 of PL 98-542 so as to expand the authorized size of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards to permit additional viewpoints to be represented; and to authorize the Committee to consult outside experts; and to authorize an independent review of the Secretary's conclusions based on proposals of the Advisory Committee.

Resolution No. 446 (Virginia) Subject: Oppose Further Curtailment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Benefits for Veterans

WHEREAS, One of the most important benefits provided by a grateful nation to its veterans is the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care program; and

WHEREAS, The VA health care program is being restricted in its ability to provide care to the maximum number of veterans who are eligible and apply for such care, by reason of funding limitations imposed by the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion does not believe it is fair, nor in accord with the wishes of the American people, that the needs of sick and disabled veterans be sacrificed on the altar of fiscal austerity; and

WHEREAS, The size of the present veteran population, occasioned by the four American wars of the Twentieth Century, is now approximately 28 million; and

WHEREAS, Not more than approximately 10% of these 28 million veterans are regular users of the VA system, these being the service disabled and the oldest, the sickest and the poorest of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, The advancing age of the World War II veteran population is placing special needs and demands on the VA system, for more specialized and long-term types of care; and

WHEREAS, These needs and demands will continue to increase through the balance of this Century, and into the Twenty-First Century; and

WHEREAS, The funding provided for veterans health care has not kept pace with inflation during the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, The system is in continuing need of large scale funding for the renovation and replacement of outdated facilities by reason of past neglect of these needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion petition the President and the Congress of the United States—

1. Not to limit the eligibility of the nation's veterans to VA health-care benefits, and
2. To provide adequate funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to enable it to

continue to offer "state of the art" medical care to those veterans who are eligible for, and need and apply for such care; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall oppose, with the maximum of its energy and resources, any and all efforts, from whatever source, to restrict, curtail or to eliminate the entitlement of honorably discharged veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, wherever and whenever such care is needed and applied for by such veterans.

Resolution No. 447 (Virginia) Subject: Sponsor and Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, so as to Provide Benefits to Veterans of the Armed Forces of Canada Residing in the United States, Similar to those Provided to Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces Residing in Canada

WHEREAS, Veterans' laws of the Dominion of Canada provide that veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in either World War I or World War II and have resided in Canada for a total of ten years or more may be eligible to receive the War Veterans Allowance; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who receive a War Veterans Allowance are also eligible, while in Canada, to receive medical and domiciliary care at the expense of the Canadian Government; and

WHEREAS, Section 109(a) of title 38, United States Code, provides that medical care and other benefits may be provided to veterans of armed forces allied with the United States in World War I or World War II upon request of the proper officials of such governments and under agreements requiring the reimbursement in cash to the government of the United States for the cost of expenses so incurred; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-491, approved October 14, 1975, provided hospital and domiciliary care to any person who served during World War I or World War II as a member of any armed force of the Government of Czechoslovakia or Poland and participated while so serving in armed conflict with an enemy of the United States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes it is fitting and proper that the United States should extend entitlement to nonservice-connected disability pension, medical and domiciliary care to veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces residing in the U.S. in a manner reciprocal to benefits provided veterans of the United States Armed Forces residing in Canada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs may provide benefits to veterans of the Armed Forces of Canada residing in the United States, similar to those provided to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces residing in Canada.

Resolution No. 450 (Virginia) Subject: Urges the President, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress to Reverse the Reduction of Personnel in the Veterans Benefits Administration to Assure the Continued Delivery of Service to Veterans and Their Dependents

WHEREAS, The timely delivery of benefits to veterans, their dependents and survivors is an important responsibility of the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, The quality of work performed by personnel assigned to VBA, determines to a great extent whether beneficiaries do in fact receive the benefits to which they are entitled by law; and

WHEREAS, Those who seek benefits from VA are veterans and members of their families who need those benefits to alleviate the effects of active military service, or because they find themselves bereaved, in ill health and economic need; and

WHEREAS, The fulfillment of its responsibilities to these beneficiaries is a sacred duty charged to VA by the Congress; and

WHEREAS, In the fact of these duties and responsibilities, the VBA has experienced a

reduction in personnel over the past nine fiscal years, and will probably experience another such reduction during Fiscal Year 1991; and

WHEREAS, These reductions have been approved by Congress through the Appropriations measure and on the recommendation of the President's Budget submittal to the Congress; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has satisfied itself that the reductions in personnel in VBA experienced during the past nine years have, in fact, adversely affected the ability of VBA to fulfill its responsibilities in delivery of benefits; and

WHEREAS, This adverse effect has resulted in hardship and loss to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, These actions by Congress and the Executive Branch are unjustified and unfair to the beneficiaries of VA; and

WHEREAS, In fulfillment of its own duty to champion the cause of all veterans and their families, it is necessary for The American Legion to protest these failures of the Government; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion calls upon the President, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress to reverse the consistent and persistent staffing reductions, and restore a sufficient number of personnel to assure the ability of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide the timely delivery of services to veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Resolution No. 483 (Iowa) Subject: Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Provide a More Equal Partnership Between State and Federal Governments in State Veterans Homes

WHEREAS, There are currently 50 State veterans homes located in 36 States across the country dedicated to the long-term care of disabled veterans who served honorably in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, The medical care and services provided by such homes relieves the Federal Government of responsibilities that otherwise would be borne by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Historically, in the cost sharing arrangements between the Federal Government and the State homes, the partnership has been weighted in favor of VA; and

WHEREAS, In view of the aging veteran population, an increased work load will be placed on the State home facilities; and

WHEREAS, If the Federal Government fails to provide its fair share of the cost of care for veterans in State homes, it is not unlikely that States will be reluctant to provide care for the increasing numbers of elderly veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes legislation should now be enacted to establish a close-working, equal partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and each of the State homes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 641 of title 38, United States Code, to provide as follows—

"(a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall reimburse, subject to the limitations of subsection (b) of this section, each State for the cost incurred by such State during each fiscal year in providing in any State home to any veteran of any war—

"(1) Domiciliary, nursing home care and hospital care if such veteran is eligible for such care in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility.

"(b) The amount of reimbursement which the Secretary shall make to each State under subsection (a) of this section for any fiscal year shall equal, but may not exceed the lesser of—

"(1) One-half of the per diem in each State home for all domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care provided to veterans during such fiscal year; or

"(2) One-half of the average per diem cost in all State homes for all domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care provided to veterans during such fiscal year."

Resolution No. 486 (Iowa) Subject: Urges the Congress in Funding VA Health Care

Programs to Assign a High Priority to the VA Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs

WHEREAS, Alcohol abuse and alcoholism continues to be one of the most significant factors adversely affecting the health and welfare of veterans of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Drug abuse and drug addiction also constitutes a serious hazard to the health and welfare of many veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has an ongoing program of treatment and rehabilitation, functioning in many of its hospitals and clinics; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has and does provide full support for this program; and

WHEREAS, With due respect to the scope of the alcohol and drug problem among veterans, the continued expansion of the program to additional VA hospitals and clinics is clearly indicated and also that 24 hour service be provided at holding areas in said VA hospitals; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion considers the further expansion of the VA's Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Program to be a vital element of the VA medical care program for veterans; and

WHEREAS, There needs to be more consistency and coordination among the programs conducted in the various VA hospitals and clinics; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to proceed with dispatch to coordinate the elements of the various alcohol and drug treatment programs in its hospitals and clinics, to effectuate a national program encompassing the most effective treatment modalities now approved and in use in the health care field; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Congress, in funding Department of Veterans Affairs health care programs, to assign high priority to VA alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, and to maintain active oversight of programs and effectiveness of such programs.

Resolution No. 512 (Georgia) Subject: Oppose Granting a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been the major voice and representative for veterans and their dependents at all levels of government for more than seventy (70) years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, the largest veterans organization in the United States, was founded upon service to all veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, This service has been provided at no cost to veterans or to the taxpayers of the individual states; and

WHEREAS, The State Directors of Veterans Affairs are usually political appointees who project the policies and creeds of the party in power; and

WHEREAS, To grant a Congressional Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs would be recognizing an association of state employees instead of a veterans organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion oppose any Congressional action that would grant a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 513 (Georgia) Subject: Support Legislation to Amend Public Law 99-272 That Shall Retain the Entitlement Provisions of the Act while Eliminating the Requirements for the Means Test and Third Party Reimbursement

WHEREAS, The 99th Congress adopted and the President approved Public Law 99-272, the Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1985; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-272 included Title XIX, the Veterans Health Care Amendments of 1986; and

WHEREAS, The means test requires that certain veterans seeking care from the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs for nonservice-connected conditions pay a deductible for inpatient care and co-payment for outpatient care; and

WHEREAS, Third party reimbursement requires that certain veterans who have private health care insurance authorize payment to VA of benefits under such private health insurance; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion opposed enactment of the means test and third party reimbursement provisions of PL 99-272 as legislation that was unnecessary and inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, The means test and third party reimbursement have in fact effected essential changes in the nature of the VA health care program by making it a cost-sharing program rather than a benefit program as intended by the American people, acting in their concern for the men and women who have defended the national interest in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, VA has now completed over three year's experience with application of the means test and third party reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Experience so far has established that the overwhelming majority of veterans seeking VA health care are from either one of the excepted categories of veterans, or represented the oldest, poorest and sickest among the veteran population, as well as other economically deprived veterans; and

WHEREAS, The means test has led to the categorization of veterans with respect to the availability of health care; and

WHEREAS, Category B and C veterans have been excluded from eligibility for VA medical care; and

WHEREAS, The cost of administering the means test and third party reimbursement has so far resulted in significant increase in administrative costs without appreciable reduction in caseload to the VA health care program; and

WHEREAS, Increase in administrative actions required by the means test and third party reimbursement have appreciably slowed and admissions process in VA medical centers and clinics, adversely affecting both service-connected and nonservice-connected admission processes; and

WHEREAS, The single gain to veterans from Public Law 99-272 has been the creation of an entitlement to care to certain deserving classes of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion approves and espouses the single gain to veterans aforementioned, but does not believe the additional problems for VA and inconvenience to deserving veterans are justified by any gain to the government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion hereby go on record supporting amendatory legislation to Public Law 99-272 and Title XIX of the Act that shall retain the entitlement provision of the Act while eliminating the requirements for the means test and third party reimbursement.

Consolidated with this resolution are: Nos. 35 (SD); 215 (MN); and 256 (AR).

Resolution No. 514 (Georgia) Subject: Oppose the Integration of the Medical Care Systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Armed Forces Including the Champus Program

WHEREAS, A proposal has been set forth that would purportedly create a "health care alliance" between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense medical facilities in the name of cost savings; and

WHEREAS, A program of "resource sharing" has been carried out between VA and DOD medical care facilities since the enactment of PL 97-174—The VA/DOD Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act—in 1982; and

WHEREAS, The recent proposal appears to go beyond a simple case of resource sharing as it is currently defined; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported sharing agreements, providing VA and military medical facilities maintained separate identities in carrying out their individual missions; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported to The American Legion that in certain instances

where sharing agreements are in place there have developed confluences of authority and double standards of care which have proven detrimental to veterans; and

WHEREAS, There are plans underway for joint construction of medical facilities, co-locating hospitals and clinics for veterans and military patients; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has historically supported VA as the sole agency responsible for the administration of benefits and medical care to the nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Military medical facilities and VA medical facilities provide treatment and care to divergent constituencies with medical needs best addressed by a continued separation of operation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is of the position that the Department of Veterans Affairs should maintain autonomy in the delivery of health care to veterans through the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion oppose any effort to merge VA medical care facilities with medical programs operated by the Department of Defense; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will totally support the continuation of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the sole department in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government responsible for the administration and execution of benefits, service programs and medical care provided by law for the nation's veterans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall continue to support certain sharing agreements as set forth in PL 97-174—on a case-by-case basis, providing VA and the military medical facilities maintain separate identities so that they can continue to responsibly carry out their separate missions.

Resolution No. 516 (Georgia) Subject: Urge the Restructuring of Salary for all Positions in the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration

WHEREAS, Recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a chronic problem which begs for a permanent resolution if the Department of Veterans Affairs is to continue its mission of providing quality health care and medical services for the nation's eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, Sections 4107, 4118, and 4120 of title 38, United States Code, presently provide for compensation levels and special pay provisions for physicians, dentists, nurses and other health care professionals in the service of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, These salary levels have been established by a series of laws and Executive Orders intended to compensate health care professionals in a manner comparable to and competitive with the private sector; and

WHEREAS, The levels of compensation and special pay currently provided under the aforementioned sections of title 38, USC, are inadequate and non-competitive with the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Problems relating to the timeliness of the special pay provisions which are brought about by the surveys that must be taken before a special pay request is submitted to Washington, and the length of time involved in the decision-making process once the request arrives at Central Office, have been reported to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, A nationwide shortage of nurses exists, which intensifies the need for salary levels for nurses in VA medical centers to be improved so that the agency can be competitive in hiring and retaining individuals in these critical positions; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the inadequate compensation levels now provided, an increasing number of health professionals are leaving the service of VA to find employment outside government, and it is difficult to attract qualified individuals to fill the vacancies; and

WHEREAS, These developments are having a deleterious effect on delivery of high quality medical care to veteran patients; and

WHEREAS, The provision of high quality health care on a timely basis to all eligible veterans who need and seek it is a primary objective of The American Legion to which it has been dedicated throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion views with increasing alarm the current developments in the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration, which are jeopardizing its ability to provide quality health care to the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation that will establish an approved plan of compensation and special pay for physicians, dentists, nurses and other health care professionals in the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any plan to be supported by The American Legion shall include features to provide for an orderly progression of compensation levels that will respond to inflationary pressures and other factors affecting salary levels of health care professionals throughout the nation, and the rendering of more immediate decisions on special pay levels; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support the establishment of a package consisting of the nurse scholarship program, tuition reimbursement, salary and benefit improvements, and administrative recommendations from within the agency to provide VA with the ability to be competitive with the private sector in the recruitment and retention of qualified nurses; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support of legislation for improved compensation and special pay shall include attention to such factors as special qualifications among health care professionals, scarce categories in health care specialties, service in remote geographical locations, and other such features as may be necessary to enable VA to maintain a balanced and highly qualified corps of health care professionals who are dedicated and committed on a career basis to provide health care to the nation's veterans.

Resolution No. 601 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation)
Subject: **Urge the U.S. Government to Plan and Prepare for the Potential Treatment of Veterans Exposed to Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agents**

WHEREAS, U.S. Forces are currently facing an adversary with a history of the manufacture and use of chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, Most medical personnel in the military service and the Department of Veterans Affairs have little or no training in the identification and treatment of the long-term residuals of exposure to modern chemical warfare agents; and

WHEREAS, The history of the exposure of U.S. Armed Forces personnel to chemical defoliants and ionizing radiation has resulted in suspicion and distrust, by those exposed, toward the government they were sworn to uphold; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Defense has retained the capability of using chemical and nuclear weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to immediately initiate necessary contingency planning, undertake studies and develop a comprehensive program covering health delivery and claims adjudication for service personnel and veterans who may become exposed to chemical, biological and radiological agents in the Iraqi conflict/Persian Gulf area; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the involved governmental agencies establish a program for sharing information, currently known, on the effects of chemical, biological and radiological agents developed through past testing and development programs.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 488 (Iowa) Subject: **Oppose Any Legislative or Administrative Proposal That Would Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Plot Allowance Consistent with the Requirements for Burial Allowance**

WHEREAS, The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (PL 97-35), enacted as a cost-saving measure, eliminated the \$300 burial benefit payable toward the funeral expense of a deceased veteran except for those veterans receiving disability compensation, nonservice-connected pension, or who die in a VA hospital; and

WHEREAS, For thousands of war veterans who never approached the Department of Veterans Affairs for any kind of a benefit during their lifetime, the only recognition received for their honorable military service was the \$300 burial benefit payable upon their death; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently stated that Congress made a serious mistake when it restricted the eligibility criteria for burial allowance; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs, in its proposed VA Budget for Fiscal Year 1989, included a legislative initiative to amend section 903 of title 38, United States Code, to change the eligibility criteria for the \$150 plot allowance by making it consistent with the current eligibility requirements for burial allowance; and

WHEREAS, Many families of veterans are in poor financial circumstances having little or no means to provide a decent and respectable funeral for the veterans to which they are justly entitled; and

WHEREAS, National cemeteries are not always located near centers of populations, thus precluding many veterans from utilizing them; and

WHEREAS, The majority of veterans desire to be buried in family burial plots, or in cemeteries nearest their homes; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is mandated to seek the restoration of the former eligibility criteria for the burial allowance to all veterans, and to increase the amount of the plot allowance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion oppose any legislative or administrative proposal that would amend the eligibility criteria of the plot allowance for veterans by making it consistent with the current eligibility requirements for burial allowance.

Resolution No. 515 (Georgia) Subject: The American Legion Policy on the National Cemetery System

WHEREAS, The National Cemetery System of the Department of Veterans Affairs is proceeding with development and expansion of the National Cemetery System; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the actions by the Department of Veterans Affairs to further develop and expand the National Cemetery System; and

WHEREAS, Legislation enacted by Congress and signed by the President in 1981 took away the burial benefit previously provided for the burial of all honorably discharged war veterans; and restricted that benefit to certain categories of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Based on its support of the principles of equal benefits for equal service, The American Legion has strongly supported the equity of the provision of the burial benefit to all honorably discharged war veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish additional national cemeteries wherever a need for them is apparent; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall support legislation to provide contract burials for veterans who are indigent at time of death; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall support necessary funding providing for the construction of columbaria and mausoleums wherever feasible within national cemeteries; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to restore the burial allowance as a benefit to be provided for the burial of all honorably discharged war veterans, and provided further that this burial allowance shall not be in an amount less than \$400.

Medical and Hospital

Resolution No. 104 (Ohio) Subject: Urge Congress to Authorize Adequate Funding in the Current Fiscal Year and in Future Years for the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration (VHS&RA)

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs construction appropriation provides

for renovation and replacement, as needed, of the physical plant of the VA health care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs health care system is comprised of 172 hospitals, 226 outpatient clinics, 117 nursing home care units, and 16 domiciliaries; and

WHEREAS, Within this VA health care system many of the aging facilities need replacement, renovation, modernization, reconfiguration and improvements, relating to fire, safety, and privacy standards, to make them suitable for the practice of modern medicine; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge Congress, in its annual appropriations to provide funds to enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a planned program of maintaining an up-to-date system of health care facilities, and one suited to its mission of providing medical services for the nation's veterans.

Resolution No. 140 (Wisconsin) Subject: Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, so as to Increase the Maximum Amount Allowable for Monthly Fee Basis Outpatient Care From \$75 to \$150.00

WHEREAS, It has been more than five years since the maximum monthly amount for fee basis care was increased; and

WHEREAS, Since that time the cost of medical care in the United States has dramatically increased; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the maximum \$75.00 monthly limit on fee basis outpatient care, some service-connected veterans are forced to pay a portion of the cost for their outpatient medical care; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is totally opposed to the idea of any veteran having to pay for the treatment of a service-connected disability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to increase the maximum amount allowable for monthly fee basis outpatient care from \$75.00 to \$150.00

Resolution No. 193 (West Virginia) Subject: Support Veterans' Smoking Privileges in VAMCs

WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Services and Research Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs has plans to eliminate the rights of veterans to smoke in VA medical centers; and

WHEREAS, VA's plan calls for the total elimination of all designated smoking areas in these facilities; and

WHEREAS, The veterans in these VA medical centers, like other veterans, defended the freedoms of this country, and are now in danger of losing their basic freedom of choice; and

WHEREAS, Veterans respect the rights of non-smokers, and in turn, deserve the right to smoke or entertain visitors who also smoke in designated smoking areas; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion feels strongly that these rights should not be violated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Chief Medical Director to maintain designated smoking areas in all VA medical facilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to mandate designated smoking areas in such facilities.

Resolution No. 205 (New York) Subject: Urge VA to Expand its Role in the Delivery of Geriatric Health Care Services

WHEREAS, The demand for geriatric and extended health care and medical services being placed upon the Department of Veterans Affairs is rapidly increasing; and

WHEREAS, By 1985 there were nearly 5 million veterans 65 years of age or older, by 1990 there will be over 7 million veterans this age, and by 1995 those veterans age 65 or older will number more than 8.5 million; and

WHEREAS, VA has instituted a program titled: Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC), to give visibility and respectability to geriatrics and, by creating centers of interest and activity to exploit available resources and develop enthusiastic new practitioners, teachers, and researchers in the field of geriatrics; and

WHEREAS, The VA medical care system should be the leader in geriatric research, training and care, due to the extensive network of VA facilities and the scope of medical care being provided; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently providing geriatric and extended health care and medical services for older veterans and must continue to provide additional geriatric medical services for the older veterans; and

WHEREAS, At the same time VA must not de-emphasize the provision of acute medical care capabilities for all veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge and encourage VA to expand its role in the delivery of geriatric health care services by enlarging its current Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers program, and by initiating other innovative programs to alleviate the problems associated with aging.

Resolution No. 221 (Kentucky) Subject: Urge the Congress and the Administration to Provide Adequate Funding so as to Establish Specialized PTSD Units at VAMCs

WHEREAS, The diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is now a recognized residual of combat experience among many veterans; and

WHEREAS, Recent scientific studies of Vietnam combat veterans have shown that an estimated 470,000 or 15% of the 3.14 million veterans of service in Vietnam are still suffering from symptoms of PTSD; and

WHEREAS, Many combat veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War also suffer from the same symptomatology; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of PTSD has been primarily provided through outpatient type care programs; and

WHEREAS, Although since 1978, VA has established inpatient PTSD treatment programs at 16 VA medical centers with a total of 305 beds, almost every unit has a waiting list of veterans attempting to receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, Limited funding has restricted the expansion of inpatient care to meet the growing demand for treatment of this widespread problem; and

WHEREAS, VA's budget for FY 1990 provides for the establishment of 4 new PTSD inpatient treatment programs totalling 58 beds and one new outpatient PTSD treatment program; and

WHEREAS, VA plans to add an additional 11 inpatient PTSD programs in the FY 1991-1995 period, depending on the availability of funding; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is fully cognizant of the need for additional inpatient treatment units in order to provide comprehensive treatment to those veterans suffering from severe symptoms of PTSD; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the Congress and the Administration to provide adequate funding for the continued operation of the inpatient PTSD treatment program and for the badly needed expansion of the program.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 220 (KY).

Resolution No. 487 (Iowa) Subject: Oppose any Legislative or Administrative Proposals that would Require Per Diem Subsidies for Veterans in State Homes to Offset Payments Made under Medicaid

WHEREAS, For over one hundred years the Federal Government has assisted the several states operating veteran homes through grant-in-aid payments for veterans cared for in those homes; and

WHEREAS, State veteran homes were established in recognition of the sacrifice made by veterans to protect and defend the liberty of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, State veteran homes are established as a state initiative, with each state determining the matter of state policy regarding admission criteria, charge criteria, the means and amount of state support, and the role of Medicaid in state home operations; and

WHEREAS, The 99th Congress saw introduction of legislation which would not allow Medicaid to consider grant-in-aid payments made by the Federal Government as third party pay for Medicaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, The passage of this bill would put the Federal Government in the position of paying for a day of care twice and would, for those majority of state homes not in the Medicaid program, create severe incentive for their states to require such participation, since grant-in-aid payments could be used to reduce state appropriations to the home's operation; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who have served this country in its fight for freedom do not deserve to be pauperized as required by the Medicaid program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion does oppose the concept that per diem subsidies paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the care of veterans in state homes shall not be used to offset payments that are made under the Medicaid program for the purpose of assisting eligible veterans.

Resolution No. 448 (Virginia) Subject: Support Legislation to Provide that Prescriptions Written by Non-VA Physicians Shall be Honored by the VA for those Veterans Suffering Service-Connected Disabilities

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to provide medical services which are determined to be medically necessary to various categories of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Drugs and medicine may be furnished to eligible veterans for treatment of a service-connected condition, for which entitlement to care has been determined, on either a staff or fee-basis treatment program; and

WHEREAS, Drugs and medicines may not be provided to veterans who are not under VA authorized treatment except to veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound allowance; and

WHEREAS, The General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs has determined there is no current statutory authority for filling prescriptions written by physicians who are not treating service-connected veterans on an authorized fee-basis; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities who are considered housebound or entitled to aid and attendance allowance are entitled to receive medications from the VA, based on prescriptions written by non-VA physicians; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion likewise believes it is inequitable to deny those prescriptions written by non-VA physicians for veterans with service-connected disabilities in some cases, and allow certain nonservice-connected veterans such a privilege in others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that prescriptions for service-connected disabilities, written by non-VA physicians who are treating veterans for such disabilities at the veteran's expense, and by the veteran's wishes, shall be honored by the VA.

Resolution No. 449 (Virginia) Subject: Urge Congress to Authorize Adequate Funding in the Current Fiscal Year and in Future Years for Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Research Programs

WHEREAS, Appropriations for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical research provides support for health service projects at VA hospitals and clinics for improving the effectiveness and economy of delivery of health services and improving the accessibility of service to veterans; and

WHEREAS, Objectives of the medical research programs are directed toward their important impact upon the VA hospital patient care and teaching program; and

WHEREAS, The VA medical research programs contribute materially to the health care of veterans and the nation as a whole by generating new knowledge; and

WHEREAS, The excellence of the VA medical research program is attested to by the recognition of VA researchers on a national and international scale; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indian-

apolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion shall urge the Congress to authorize adequate funding in the current fiscal year and in future years of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical research programs.

Resolution No. 560 (Philippine Islands) Subject: Urges the United States Government to Restore the Grants-In-Aid Program for the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines

WHEREAS, Sections 631 and 632 of title 38, United States Code, were amended by Public Law 97-72, so as to eliminate the provision of hospital and nursing home care to the Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts requiring treatment for service-connected disabilities or nonservice-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, These veterans are in need of continuing medical and hospital care by reason of their disabilities and advancing age; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Memorial Medical Center is providing adequate medical care to these veterans and contributing to the advancement of medical education in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Memorial Center has furnished satisfactory hospital care to these veterans, and also has established an affiliation with outstanding universities and medical colleges for the training of medical interns and students as well as interns, students and externs of allied health professionals; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was supportive of the grants-in-aid program and feels that the Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts are deserving of the assistance of the United States in receiving medical care during their waning years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 632 of title 38, United States Code, so as to restore the authority for the United States to pay for hospital care, medical services, nursing home care, available medicines, medical supplies and equipment for Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts who have incurred service-connected or nonservice-connected disabilities.

Claims and Rating

Resolution No. 37 (South Dakota) Subject: Support Legislation to Provide Housebound Benefits for Certain Recipients of Parents DIC

WHEREAS, The current program of Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation does not include an intermediate rate for individuals who are substantially confined to their place of residence or housebound; and

WHEREAS, Such individuals are severely disabled and require assistance in order to leave their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, The severity of their disability does not meet the criteria for an award of additional compensation benefits based on nursing home status, or being helpless or blind, or in need of aid and attendance, under section 415(g) of title 38, United States Code; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 415 of title 38, United States Code, so as to provide for an intermediate rate based on housebound status.

Resolution No. 100 (Ohio) Subject: Support Legislation to Amend 38 USC 110 to Provide that a Disability Rated at or Above a Certain Evaluation for 10 or more Years Shall be Protected

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes and strongly supports that a service-connected disability which has been continuously rated at or above an evaluation for compensation purposes should be protected after ten years and shall not thereafter be rated at less than such evaluation, except upon a showing that such rating was based on fraud; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of this great nation, the people and the Congress

have provided special benefit programs for those men and women who honorably served in time of war; and

WHEREAS, The service-connected conditions contributed substantially or materially and for many veterans is the principal cause of death; and

WHEREAS, No consideration in these determinations is given to the fact that severe chronic disabilities materially shorten the life expectancy of these veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is convinced that the length of time for the preservation of disability rating evaluations should be the same as that which currently applies to the protection of service connection (referring to section 110 of title 38, United States Code, and section 359 of title 38, United States Code); and

WHEREAS, Section 110 of title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for twenty or more years; and

WHEREAS, Permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for ten years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend 38 USC 110, to provide that any disability which has been continuously rated at or above any evaluation for ten or more years for compensation purposes under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs shall not thereafter be rated at less than such evaluation, except upon a showing that such rating was based on fraud.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 76 (ND)

Resolution No. 103 (Ohio) Subject: Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, United States Code, so as to Expand the List of Presumptive Service-Connected Disorders Based on Exposure to Ionizing Radiation

WHEREAS, Certain veterans were exposed to ionizing radiation as a consequence of their service in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, A GAO report has found that most atomic test participants and occupation forces of Japan wore little, if any, protective clothing; and

WHEREAS, Film badges worn to register radiation exposure during nuclear testing were incapable of recording total exposure, and many of the film badges are missing; and

WHEREAS, Certain diseases and disabilities have an established association with radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, Numerous accounts have been related before the Congress regarding atomic veterans who have been unable to establish service connection for disabilities which may be associated with radiation exposure for VA compensation purposes; and

WHEREAS, This nation's veterans who are suffering from radiation related disorders deserve to be treated in a fair and compassionate manner to include being given every benefit of reasonable doubt; and

WHEREAS, The enactment of PL 100-321 recognizes certain radiogenic diseases and establishes them as presumptive disorders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation based on scientific evidence, which would appropriately expand the list of presumptive service-connected disorders for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation incidental to their service in the Armed Forces.

Resolution No. 202 (New York) Subject: Sponsor and Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, so as to Provide Special Pension Program for Veterans of World War I

WHEREAS, The median age of the veterans of World War I approximates 92 years; and

WHEREAS, The number of living World War I veterans is decreasing steadily; and

WHEREAS, The surviving veterans of World War I are no longer employable, and in many instances are subsisting at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Through the years since November 11, 1918, these veterans have worked unremittingly to develop the comprehensive program of veterans benefits that is now provided for all American war veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I did not have the advantage of any of the readjustment programs provided for veterans of later wars; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States and the American people have a direct obligation to insure that all of the veterans of World War I are not forgotten in their later years; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I are deserving of a special measure of attention because they have not received all benefits provided for veterans of other wars, and many of them live in a condition of economic deprivation; and

WHEREAS, The most efficacious and propitious way for the nation to fulfill its obligation to World War I veterans is to insure them an adequate monthly income; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, which was founded by veterans of World War I, has a special obligation to look to their needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to amend Chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a new section entitled "Veterans of World War I" and, which will provide as follows:

(A) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pay to each veteran of World War I, who meets the service requirements of this section, pension at the rate prescribed by this section.

(B) If the veteran is unmarried (or married but not living with and not reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse), and has no child, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed \$12,000, pension shall be paid the veteran at the monthly rate of \$300.

(C) If the veteran is married and living with or reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse, or has a child or children, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed \$15,000, pension shall be paid the veteran at the monthly rate of \$300.

(D) The pension provided for this section shall be paid without regard to (1) any income of any kind payable to the spouse, and (2) the corpus of estate of the veteran or the spouse.

(E) In determining annual income for the purpose of this section, all payments of any kind or from any source shall be included, except those presently excluded under the existing provisions of section 503 of this title.

(F) Any veteran who is eligible for pension under section 521 or any other section of this title shall, if he/she elects, be paid such pension. If pension is paid pursuant to such an election, the election shall be irrevocable.

(G) For the purpose of this section, the term World War I means the period beginning on April 6, 1917 and ending on November 11, 1918.

(H) A veteran meets the service requirements of this section, if such veteran served in active military, naval, or air service,

1. For ninety days or more during World War I;
2. During World War I and was discharged or released from such service for a service-connected disability;
3. For a period of ninety consecutive days or more and such period began or ended during World War I; and
4. For an aggregate of ninety days or more in two or more separate periods of service during more than one period of war.

Resolution No. 209 (Minnesota) Subject: Support the Continuation of the Dependency and Indemnity Program as Established Under Current Law

WHEREAS, The current law states that dependency and indemnity compensation shall be paid to a surviving spouse, based on the pay grade of the deceased veteran, at monthly rates set forth by law; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, is considering a proposal to pay future surviving spouses at a flat rate regardless of the veteran's military pay grade; and

WHEREAS, Members of the military service, as they progress through the ranks and length of service, increase their dependency status, and a Private may only have a wife, whereas a Master Sergeant may have a wife and four children; and

WHEREAS, A member of the military service who has additional dependency through length of marriage and time in service, should have additional benefits for their hardships and sacrifice in choosing the military as a career; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that the current provision relating to dependency and indemnity compensation is fair and equitable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support the continuation of the dependency and indemnity compensation program as it is currently set forth in Chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code.

Resolution No. 427 (Iowa) Subject: Support Legislation to Provide for the Payment a Clothing Allowance to Veterans with a Compensable Skin Condition and for Other Compensable Conditions When it is Determined There is Clothing Spoilage

WHEREAS, Under title 38, USC, the Department of Veterans Affairs shall pay a clothing allowance each year to any veteran who because of disability which is compensable wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) which tends to wear out the clothing of such a veteran; and

WHEREAS, There are certain veterans who receive compensation for severe skin conditions that require the use of medication; and

WHEREAS, Those disabilities that result in urinary or fecal incontinence and require the use of appliances for colostomies, ileostomies, drainage from wounds, or infected areas, or the use of apparatus holding bandages, likewise cause wear and tear on clothing due to abrasion or frequent need of laundering; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is aware that a substantial number of these veterans have clothing spoilage due to the types of disabilities involved and the use of salves, medication, and appliances for those disabilities mentioned herewith; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 362 of title 38, USC, to provide for the payment of an annual clothing allowance to any veteran with a compensable skin condition requiring topical medication and also to those veterans who have service-connected disabilities, that result in urinary or fecal incontinence and require the use of appliances for colostomies, ileostomies, drainage from wounds or infected areas, or the use of an apparatus holding bandages.

Resolution No. 451 (Virginia) Subject: Sponsor and Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, Chapter 15 to Further Improve the Disability and Death Pension Programs for Veterans and Their Dependents

WHEREAS, Public Law 95-588, the Veterans and Survivors Pension Improvement Act of 1978, effective January 1, 1979, did provide major changes in the pension program for veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and for their surviving spouses and children; and

WHEREAS, These pension improvement provisions did establish a guaranteed annual income level for veterans as well as for spouses and children; and

WHEREAS, After extensive study, The American Legion concludes that there are inequities in the improved program that require amendments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to accomplish the following amendments to Chapter 15 title 38, United States Code:

1. (a) Amend section 541(b) to provide as follows: "If no child of the veteran is in custody of the surviving spouse, pension shall be paid to the surviving spouse at the annual rate of \$6,050 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (b) Amend section 541(c) to provide as follows: "If there is a child of the veteran in the custody of the surviving spouse, pension shall be paid to the surviving spouse at the annual rate of \$7,978 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (c) Amend section 541(d)(1) to provide as follows: "If a surviving spouse who is entitled to pension under subsection (b) of this section is in need of regular aid and attendance, the annual rate of pension payable to such surviving spouse shall be \$9,742 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (d) Amend section 541(d)(2) to provide

as follows: "If a surviving spouse who is entitled to pension under subsection (c) of this section is in need of regular aid and attendance, the annual rate of pension payable to the surviving spouse shall be \$11,630 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (e) Amend section 541(e) to provide as follows: "If the surviving spouse is permanently housebound, but does not qualify for pension at the aid and attendance rate provided by subsection (d) of this section, the annual rate of pension payable to such surviving spouse under subsection (b) of this section shall be \$7,444 and the annual rate of pension payable to such surviving spouse under subsection (c) of this section shall be \$9,331 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income."

2. Amend section 542 to provide as follows: (a) "Whenever there is no surviving spouse entitled to pension under section 541, pension shall be paid monthly to each child at the annual rate of \$5,751 reduced by the child's annual income."

3. Amend section 543 by deleting under subsection (b) the following: "The income of any person with whom such child is residing who is legally responsible for such child's support, and the corpus of the estate of such person."

4. Amend section 521(f)(1) through (5) to provide as follows: "If two veterans are married to one another and each meet the disability and service requirements prescribed in subsections (a) and (j) respectively, of this section, the rate of pension payable to each such veteran shall be at the annual rate of \$6,767 reduced by the amount of each such veteran's annual income. If either such veteran is in need of regular aid and attendance the rate of pension payable to each such veteran shall be at the rate of \$6,767 and \$10,824 respectively, reduced by the amount of such veteran's annual income. If either such veteran would be entitled to pension at the rate provided by subsection (e) of this section, the rate of pension payable to each such veteran shall be \$6,767 and \$8,271 respectively, and if both such veterans would be entitled to the rate provided by subsection (e) of this section, each shall be paid at the annual rate of \$8,271 reduced by the amount of each such veteran's annual income. If one such veteran is in need of regular aid and attendance and the other would be entitled to the rate provided for under subsection (e) of this section, the annual rate provided by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be \$10,824 and \$8,271 respectively."

5. Amend section 503 to exclude in the determination of annual income, payments under policies of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, and payments of Servicemen's Indemnity.

6. Amend section 3012(b)(4) to read as follows: "(4) By reason of change in income or corpus of estate shall be the last day of the calendar year in which the change occurred."

Resolution No. 511 (Georgia) Subject: Urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Amend 38 CFR 3.301(C)(2) Thereby Recognizing Alcoholism as a Disease

WHEREAS, Every Federal agency except the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers alcoholism to be a pathological disease; and

WHEREAS, The regulations set forth under 38 CFR 3.301(c)(2) describe alcoholism as willful misconduct which precludes entitlement to most benefits administered by VA; and

WHEREAS, "Willful misconduct" is described in the definitions under 38 CFR 3.1(n) as an act involving conscious wrongdoing or known prohibited action (*malum in se* or *malum prohibitum*); and

WHEREAS, The "willful misconduct" regulations were promulgated by VA in the absence of a Congressional mandate; and

WHEREAS, Alcoholism is recognized as a disease that is innocently acquired through the legal and socially acceptable practice of consuming alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans and their families are being discriminated against because of the archaic restrictions contained in the "willful misconduct" regulations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion strongly urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to amend 38 CFR 3.301(c) so as to remove the stigma that has been attached to the disease of alcoholism by eliminating subsection (2) which sets forth specific applications of the terms "in line of duty" and "willful misconduct" with

respect to alcoholism for the purpose of determining entitlement to service-connected and nonservice-connected benefits administered by VA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That if the Secretary declines to take action to correct the inequity of rating alcoholism as a misconduct condition, rather than as a pathological disease, The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to correct aforesaid inequity by statute.

Insurance

Resolution No. 201 (New York) Subject: Support Legislation to Automatically Waive Insurance Premiums for 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans

WHEREAS, A 100% permanently and totally disabled veteran may continue to pay insurance premiums when in effect the premiums should be waived; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has access to a computer system which in the interest of more efficient management, could save money and improve application and processing procedures for our veterans; and

WHEREAS, Under current VA procedures veterans who are 100% service-connected and are permanently and totally disabled automatically should be considered for waiver of insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion feels an undue burden is placed on these veterans who do not receive waivers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support legislation to automatically waive insurance premiums on policies administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for 100% permanently and totally disabled veterans.

Department of Defense Boards

Resolution No. 434 (Virginia) Subject: Eliminate Time Limits for Filing of Applications for Correction of Military or Naval Records

WHEREAS, The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 provided recognition of representatives of The American Legion and other organizations to serve as counsel before discharge and retirement boards of the Armed Forces, and this recognition was extended to cover Boards for the Correction of Military and Naval Records when they were created by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was actively involved in the legislative process that established the Correction Boards under section 1552 of title 10, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, Although under provision of title 10 USC 1552 a three year statute of limitations is created which begins tolling from the date of discovery of an error or injustice on the military record of a former serviceperson, the Boards are also authorized under the statute to excuse filings beyond the three year period if it is in the interest of justice to do so; and

WHEREAS, For many years the Boards routinely waived the three year statute of limitations so as to provide veterans the opportunity to correct any error or injustice; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has now decided to "reinterpret" the law, refuse waiver, and strictly invoke the three year time limitation in the name of cost-savings; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is of the opinion that the Department of Defense is clearly disregarding the intent of Congress, diluting the authority and usefulness of the Boards for the Correction of Military and Naval Records which are essential to the personnel system of the Department of Defense, and totally eliminating the ability of untold thousands of veterans to correct errors or injustices which exist in their service records, all in the name of fiscal austerity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend title 10, United States Code, so as to eliminate all time limitations with respect to filing applications for the correction of military or naval records.

Referred Resolutions

The following resolutions are being referred to the Standing Commission for staff study or administrative disposition.

Policy

12 (Nebraska)—Provide American Legion representation of claimants before the Court of Veterans Appeals

19 (Massachusetts)—Oppose the curtailment of veterans benefits, and the services of Veterans Benefits Counselors to veterans in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

124 (Texas)—Urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to survey all excess DOD real estate to determine the feasibility of taking possession of such property

210 (Minnesota)—Provide American Legion representation of claimants before the Court of Veterans Appeals

278 (District of Columbia)—Oppose any further staffing reduction and budgetary cuts in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

454 (Michigan)—Support legislation to amend Public Law 99-272 that shall retain the entitlement provisions of the Act while eliminating the requirements for the Means Test and Third Party Reimbursement

484 (Iowa)—Urges the Congress and the President to provide sufficient health care funding for veterans

561 (Philippine Islands)—Urges the United States Government to extend the services of the present U.S. VA Director David Smith at the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Manila Office

National Cemeteries

11 (Nebraska)—Support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to provide transportation allowance in the case of veterans who die in a State Veterans Home

131 (Illinois)—Support the establishment of a National Cemetery at the Village of Cissna Park, Illinois

132 (Illinois)—Support the creation of a National Cemetery in Illinois

134 (Illinois)—Support the establishment of a National Cemetery at Fort Sheridan, Illinois

222 (Kentucky)—Support the creation of a State Cemetery in the Commonwealth of Kentucky with cost sharing provided by the Federal Government

455 (Michigan)—Support legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for the transportation cost for deceased Medal of Honor recipients from the place of death to Arlington National Cemetery or other national cemeteries

461 (Washington)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to authorize the inclusion of the Bronze Star for Valor on the headstones of deceased recipients at government expense

Medical and Hospital

13 (Nebraska)—Urge that certain diagnostic related groups (DRG) procedures be performed and reimbursed as outpatient procedures to maximize available medical care resources at VAMCs

18 (Massachusetts)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to review and revise regulations for the provision of continued home health care services to totally disabled veterans

21 (Massachusetts)—Oppose the closing of a Psychiatric Ward at VAMC, Northampton, Massachusetts

34 (South Dakota)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to mandate the provisions of nursing home care for veterans entitled to inpatient care

36 (South Dakota)—Opposes any reduction in the ability of the South Dakota VAMCs to provide full medical and surgical services at existing levels

74 (North Dakota)—Urge the provision of adequate funding to maintain radiation therapy and critical patient care services at the VAMC in Fargo, North Dakota

192 (Pennsylvania)—Urge the restoration of beneficiary travel allowance so as to be provided in the manner effective prior to April 13, 1987

391 (Missouri)—Support adequate funding for the continued operation of the VA Outpatient Clinic at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mt. Vernon, Missouri

VA Hospitals

The following resolutions are recommended for referral to the Standing Commission for presentation to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with the request that each resolution be considered in connection with the Department of Veterans Affairs' overall planning to insure that there will be sufficient hospital and nursing home care beds, other medical care, and domiciliary facilities, meeting the present high standards of the VA hospital system, and suitably located throughout the country for veterans requiring hospitalization and medical treatment, or domiciliary care, for their service-connected disabilities, and for war veterans suffering from nonservice-connected disabilities, and who are unable to pay for needed hospitalization, nursing, or domiciliary care.

214 (Minnesota)—Support adequate funding for installing an air conditioning system at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota

393 (Missouri)—Urge that the Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic be assigned to the sole jurisdiction of the Harry S. Truman Memorial VA Hospital in Columbia, Missouri

467 (Maine)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans outpatient treatment clinic and a veterans home in Washington County, Maine

Claims and Rating

10 (Nebraska)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to provide special adaptive housing grants to veterans in receipt of special monthly compensation (SMC) for the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands.

75 (North Dakota)—Oppose any legislative or administrative proposal that provides for offsetting VA compensation payments with any other Federal benefits

84 (Tennessee)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, to provide increase in pension payments in certain instances where veterans are receiving medical care

101 (Ohio)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to award payment of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to all eligible claimants at a flat rate

116 (Mississippi)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to rescind regulations which transferred cases of Philippine veterans, who are citizens and residents of the United States, to VARO Manila, Philippine Islands

206 (New York)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to expand the dates for certain wartime periods

Insurance

77 (North Dakota)—Support legislation to authorize an open period of enrollment for eligible service-connected veterans to apply for coverage under the service disabled veterans insurance program

203 (New York)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to increase the face value of National Service Life Insurance at a level up to \$20,000

204 (New York)—Support legislation to make National Service Life Insurance available to honorably discharged veterans with service after January 1, 1957

Rejected Resolutions**Policy**

41 (Alabama)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

83 (Tennessee)—Urge the Social Security Administration to improve its telephone information services

162 (Wisconsin)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

247 (Utah)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

283 (Vermont)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

389 (Missouri)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

469 (Maine)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to conform to the dates of the Vietnam war as approved by the United States Congress

489 (Iowa)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

553 (California)—Support legislation to remove any and all limits on income of workers between the ages of 65 and 70, including private pension plans, which would preclude receipt of Social Security payments

Medical and Hospital

117 (Arkansas)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to equalize its medical and health care services to veterans of World War I and World War II

198 (New York)—Urge the rescission of all regulations restricting the amount of chiropractic care provided to Medicare eligible beneficiaries

369 (Colorado)—Support legislation for a national comprehensive health care systems with affordable premiums which allows patients to retain reasonable assets

Claims and Rating

3 (New Jersey)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to provide benefits to all eligible veterans who served in the Philippine Commonwealth Army during world War II

20 (Massachusetts)—Support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to provide rates of death pension based on a geographical cost-of-living differential

22 (Massachusetts)—Support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to provide rates of disability pension based on the cost-of-living in geographical areas, and the prevailing minimum wage rate

85 (Tennessee)—Support legislation to exempt up to \$100.00 of annual interest when computing income of pension recipients

138 (Wisconsin)—Support improvements in the death pension program

212 (Minnesota)—Support the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs proposal that would offer veterans and dependents financial assistance in lieu of receiving dependency allowances if afforded the option to select one or the other

562 (Philippine Islands)—Seek legislation to grant nonservice-connected disability pensions to certain Filipino veterans

565 (Philippine Islands)—Wartime service of Philippine Scouts

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STELLAR: Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of this Report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Is there a second?

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: You have heard the motion and the second.

Microphone No. 3.

DELEGATE RALPH STONE, New Jersey: Delegate from New Jersey, Member of this Rehabilitation and Veterans Affairs Convention Committee, this very, very important Rehabilitation Report should be sustained, and I second the motion for the adoption of this report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Name, please?

DELEGATE STONE: Ralph Stone, New Jersey, Delegate, Member of the Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Microphone 2.

DELEGATE BUBBA AIKEN, Georgia: Mr. Commander, Rubin Aiken, Delegate from Georgia, I, too, move for the adoption of the Report. Thank you.

... The question was called for.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Mike 2.

DELEGATE BOB DEMERY, South Dakota: Mr. Commander, Bob Demery from the Department of South Dakota. It is a known fact that professionals have deemed smoking is hazardous to your health.

I believe that Resolution No. 139 ought to be removed from these resolutions. We should not endorse areas of smoking because of that fact.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Restate it, please.

Are you asking for a set aside?

DELEGATE DEMERY: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: 139 is set aside. Is there any other discussion?

All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed, no. The ayes have it and it is carried. Mr. Chairman?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STELLAR: Resolution No. 139 is as follows:

Resolution No. 139 Subject: Support The Veterans Smoking Privileges in VAMCs

WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Services and Research Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs has plans to eliminate the rights of veterans who smoke in VA Medical Centers; and

WHEREAS, The VA's plan is for the total elimination of all designated smoking areas in these facilities; and

WHEREAS, The veterans in these VA Medical Centers, like other veterans, defended the freedoms of this country, and are now in danger of losing their basic freedom of choice; and

WHEREAS, Veterans respect the rights of non-smokers, and in turn, deserve the right to smoke or entertain visitors who also smoke in designated smoking areas; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion feels strongly that these rights should not be violated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Chief Medical Director to maintain designated smoking areas in all VA Medical Facilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to mandate designated smoking areas in such facilities.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STELLAR: Mr. Commander, I move the approval of Resolution No. 139 and that it be adopted by this Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Is there a second?

Microphone 5.

DELEGATE BILL METCALF: Mr. Commander, Delegate Bill Metcalf, Service Direc-

tor from the Department of Kentucky, as well as a member of the Screening Committee, do hereby second the motion by the Committee Chairman.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Any other discussion?

... The question was called for.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The question being called for, all in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed, no.

The motion carries.

NATIONAL SERVICE TROPHY

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: With the adoption of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Report, it is appropriate to announce the National Service Trophy.

This trophy is awarded annually to the Department which best supports and implements programs to benefit Veterans, their families and their survivors.

For the 1989-90 program year, the Trophy is awarded to the Department of Minnesota.

INTRODUCTION OF ADMIRAL ELMO R. ZUMWALT

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Our next guest currently operates his own consulting firm, specializing in the fields of management, energy, health care, overseas business operations, foreign and defense policy and strategic planning.

A Retired Naval Officer, he was the youngest man ever promoted to Rear Admiral, and the youngest man ever to serve as Chief of Naval Operations. In that assignment he initiated wide-range reforms in a dramatic effort to revitalize the Navy. Navy Veterans of the Vietnam War recall his name as "Z-Grams."

Time Magazine has called him "The most popular Navy leader since World War II." On his watch, Naval fighting capabilities increased as American ships were outfitted with more sophisticated and efficient weapons.

He has been extremely active in the on-going battle to provide compensation to Vietnam Veterans who suffer from problems they believe were caused by Agent Orange.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome a Fellow Legionnaire from Gonzalez Post 40, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt.

ELMO R. ZUMWALT Admiral USN (Ret.)

Thank you very much.

We, the Navy, during my watch did itself the honor of selecting, for the first time in naval history, a woman to be an Admiral, the Head of our Nurse Corps, Mrs. Eileen Durrick.

My picture appeared in the newspapers around the land as she was being awarded the two stars of her Admiral's rank. I was pictured kissing her.

I received a letter soon thereafter from an old friend saying, "Dear Bud. I never thought I would live to see the day when the Chief of Naval Operations was kissing an admiral."

I sat down and wrote back and said, "Old friend, you need to be aware that nobody ever became the Chief of Naval Operations without having kissed a lot of admirals."

Now that I have revealed the secret as to how I became the youngest ever I shall proceed henceforth to be serious on a very serious question.

I think you all know that the law states that any health effect will be judged a Service-connected disability if there is a likely as not significant correlation between Agent Orange and that health effect.

In recent years, the casual reader would have been deluged with a vast array of contrasting information.

For example, within just a few weeks past, the Agent Orange Scientific Task Force formed and co-sponsored by The American Legion and written by seven distinguished scientists, concluded that there are five health effects which have a greater likelihood than not of being connected to Agent Orange, they're more than likely, than not. And they said

that there were 13 others that a policymaking group or person might well decide were at least as likely as not, although they didn't get to see all the evidence necessary, as scientists say that.

At the same time I reported out a study that had been done at the request of Secretary Derwinski in which he concluded that there were 27 health effects that were correlated as likely as not to exposure to Agent Orange.

Now in doing so, I tried to do something that the Secretary's Committee on Environmental Hazards has not done, and that is, I tried to pay attention to what the experimentals on animals have concluded for the correlation, or the parallel that would give us, and I tried to pay attention to a series of other problems that I will speak about in a moment, and putting myself in the Secretary's shoes, I concluded that if I were Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, I would judge that there were 27 health effects as likely as not correlated to Agent Orange exposure. At about the same time, the Centers for Disease Control, in spite of a year's long effort to conclude that there was no correlation, an effort which went so far as to come up with non-valid exposure, found that in spite of their best efforts into selected cancer studies, there was a 50 percent greater evaluation of non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Secretary Derwinski a few days later, moved, God bless him, to assign non-Hodgkins lymphoma as a related effect and to make it a Service connection.

Then, a few weeks after that, when the Committee on Environmental Hazards came to the conclusion that soft-tissue sarcoma as likely as not was correlated, Secretary Derwinski moved promptly to add that to the list.

Last week, I, as a member of the Committee on Environmental Hazards participated in a hearing in which they recommended to Secretary Derwinski that chloracne be certified as related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Within the last few weeks, Congressman Weiss's Subcommittee of the Government Committee on Operations has come up with a conclusion in which Congressman Wise says, the CDC covered up the truth about Agent Orange by conducting a study intentionally designed to fail.

And the Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services, Mason, promptly disallowed those conclusions and attacked them.

And then more recently The American Legion has brought its suit against the Government in an effort to get the controversial CDC study redone.

Now the history that has come to fruition in the last few weeks has a long background. Back in 1969 the Monsanto Company in a facility in Nitro, West Virginia suffered an explosion in which many of their workers were exposed to dioxin. A series of company-paid doctors did studies in ensuing years. Those studies showed that there was no correlation between exposure to dioxin and cancers, and they became the basic reference studies for scientists to use to compare with all other studies that came along.

In 1953, there was a similar type of explosion in a German town, and again, the data that was gathered by the company-provided doctors, and demonstrated no correlation between cancer and exposure to dioxin.

Many years later, the Veterans Administration itself, did an examination of those Marine Corps Veterans in Vietnam exposed to Agent Orange, compared to a controlled group, and the study was not released until it leaked.

That study showed a 57 percent greater increase in lung cancer, and a 100 percent greater occurrence of non-Hodgkins lymphoma compared to normal, which was promptly downgraded or denigrated by scientists which said that the Centers for Disease Control Study-which we believe was not well done showed no such rise among the Army Veterans.

And then the Courts got into it. The recent Court work by a Dr. Rouch of Monsanto Corporation who was interrogated, left no doubt in the minds of many that the numbers that were put together for those studies were inappropriately done, and were done hastily, that they show a great increase in cancer among the workers exposed in that plant.

And by similar Court record in Germany, it has now been established that a similar inappropriate putting together of numbers was done there. And when they resorted the occurrence of digestive cancers and respiratory cancers, they were two and a half times greater amongst the exposed group than among a normal group.

And so finally, the basic reference studies are being questioned and put to jeopardy in this physical and staff world in which the scientists have been living.

The studies that in the past have been denigrated because they did show correlation, are beginning to be more valid, with the elimination of the inappropriately done studies.

Next there were the series of Government studies. A Ranch Hand Study, in which 1200 Air Force individuals who were exposed while using Agent Orange spray, were studied, and that again was reported to be non-conclusive with regard to health effects. And the Centers for Disease Control and its Agent Orange study decided that it could not be completed and that veterans in Vietnam actually had not been exposed to Agent Orange, and after the expenditures of millions of dollars there appeared to be no answer from that study.

And at the same time, many of us who came along, who had served in Vietnam, were able to demonstrate that there was a very valid reason why the Marine Corps increases in cancer were different than what appeared in the studies by the CDC of the Army. In the case of the Army, the Centers for Disease Control got from Colonel Dick Christian, who incidentally, in my judgment, is one of the great heroes of this battle, and had done yeoman work in persisting in getting the data. The Centers for Disease Control took his data, lined up the parameters as to the priority order of exposure among 50 battalions, and then instead of taking six most exposed, they took the six least exposed. In addition, the Marines in the I Corps had the practice of staying in the villages and eating and drinking the exposed water and food with their Vietnamese villagers, whereas the Army went back to base camp. As the third difference, the Navy provided all the logistics personnel in the I Corps, and the Navy veterans were not included in the study; diluted, while in the Army, the Army logistics personnel were included, and they did enter the study. So there were very valid reasons why the scientists have had any operational expertise on that study. The difference in those two studies would have appeared to be quite valid.

With regard to those Government studies, it seems the Congress got involved with Colonel Dick Christian's good work, and they began to raise questions, pointing out that the Ranch Hand Study had been changed, to, or indicate that not reassuring results were instead reassuring; that a draft or result had been withheld for many years and that the study was of such lower power, that is with so few individuals involved, that it couldn't be judged adequate for most of the health effects.

Then the Weiss Committee reported out after a 14-month examination of all the documents, and they reported that they were convinced that the Office of Management and Budget and the White House Domestic Policy Council had had a deliberate policy back in 1984 of seeing to it that the studies done by the Government did not come up with conclusions. In other words, that they did not follow the scientific outcomes but instead for political reasons came up with answers that did not contribute to the correlation between dioxin and health effects. The reason for that was twofold: To hold down on the cost of compensation to veterans at a time when there was concern about budget deficits, and further to deny that there was a linkage to dioxins so people in the private sector who had been exposed, would not be able to make claims. So science took a second seat to political expediency.

Let me just give you a couple of quotes from Government documents that The American Legion has made public. One is from a Maynard Horiwitz in the Bureau of Management and Budget. He says we will be in the tenuous position of denying dioxin exposure compensation to private citizens while providing benefits to veterans if we support this bill. Therefore, don't support it. That was in 1984. In July of 1986, the Office of Management and Budget sent the following in a memorandum: It is important to testimony and other public comment not associate the measurement of dioxin in blood with causation. We recommend that under Secretary Newman insure that Mason, who was then the Centers for Disease Control Director, will be explicit, that developing a major dioxin content in the blood is neither a link, cause nor an exposure nor proof of a cause and effect relationship between dioxin and disease. This was the man who now as Assistant Secretary attacks the objective study of a congressional committee designed to investigate what he and others were about.

In my work in the Government I have had an opportunity to judge this phenomenon over

and over again. I recall as a young Lieutenant spending a day with then ex-Secretary of State, General George Marshall, and I said to him, "When I was a high school student in the 30's, as I read the newspapers, I believed that the Government was telling me that in the event of an invasion by Japan, we would defeat the Japanese."

He said, "You're right."

I said, "Why didn't we?"

He said, "Lieutenant, you have got to understand the difference between declaratory policy and reality."

He said, "The declared policy was that we would defeat the invasion; the reality was that we had absolutely no military capability to do so." And secretly they always knew that we would have to surrender the Philippines and fight our way back. In high office I came to understand this base, the disconnection between public statement and private policy. And when, as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, each year I and my counterparts reported to the President that, in the case of the Navy, there was only about a 35 percent probability of victory against the Soviet navy. That was before the Reagan buildup.

In the case of the Air Force that there was less than a 50 percent probability of victory, and in the case of the Army, the Chief of Staff reported that it was only a question of how many weeks at that time it would take the Soviet Union to reach the channel. And yet not a word of that ever hit the public, while there were assurances that our defenses were adequate.

It can perhaps be summed up best by Mr. Winston Churchill who said, "Democracy is the worst form of government invented except for all the others that been tried."

Now, let me try to put some focus on the good news, after talking about all bad. First, I think we can be very happy that we have in Tony Principi of Veterans' Affairs, and in Secretary Derwinski, for the first time at the policy level in Veterans' Affairs, people who have been willing to work with us to get at the facts. And although I would have hoped for faster resolution, they have shown great courage in taking on other parts of the Government that were less willing to authorize a finding with regard to non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and soft-tissue sarcoma. And I believe that Secretary Derwinski will shortly do the same with regard to chloracne.

We have, with our Commander-in-Chief, President Bush, the first president who has been interested objectively in getting to the facts, and to my personal knowledge, he has supported Secretary Derwinski in his decision to this date.

We have had the addition of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, soft-tissue sarcoma, and shortly, chloracne to the list of health effects caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

We have had public hearings by the Courts; by the Congress. The public is beginning to understand these fraud studies and the extent to which the lobbying of chemical companies is working against us, and our interests. And the extent to which that influence pervades in the Government.

We have some very courageous helpers on Capitol Hill, Senators Daschle, Harkins, McKane. Senator Carey and Congressman Lane Evans, and many others are working diligently to help us solve this problem.

We have really four parallels of efforts going on at the present time. One is the continuing work of the Committee on Environmental Hazards, which recommends to the Secretary, and over very slow and painstaking process in the months ahead, we'll be dealing with all of these health effects.

We have your suit, which is demanding that the Centers for Disease Control study be redone on an honest basis, and that will provide, in my judgment, data that will be significant to this cause.

We have the recommendation of the recent Weiss Subcommittee, that a private group be commissioned, a non-prejudiced group of scientists, to evaluate this whole field and come up with accurate information.

Then finally we have the legislative route itself. In the Senate there is a bill that would add some five health effects, three that have already been authorized by the Secretary, and two others.

Then in the House we had a bill that would have been of the same type, but it was recently gutted by Congressman Tim Penny, aided and assisted by Congressman Sonny

Montgomery. We need the help of all the members here to urge their congressmen, particularly if they were on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and their senators, but any of your congressmen and senators, to urge the Veterans' Affairs Committee of both the House and the Senate to correct this long-needed oversight with regard to Agent Orange.

I personally entered this study having been through the trauma of the loss of a son, a Vietnam veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange, and both of us believing that there might be a correlation, but both of us stating that in our judgment medical science could not yet conclude it, and that was the way upon which I embarked upon my study. And I had the very deep hope, because I was the instrument of the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam and so far as Navy veterans are concerned, I had the deep hope that I would be able to conclude that there was not a correlation. Instead, as I got into the flaws of the chemical company-sponsored studies, and as I got into the flaws of the Government-sponsored studies, as I reviewed all of the literature, including the animal studies and saw the substantial uncertainties that had been allowed to percolate, I came to the conclusion that if I were Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, I would have to conclude that there is as likely as not a significant statistical correlation between Agent Orange and the 27 health effects that I listed in my report.

I urge from you, the help that we need in this nation, where only the raw naked power of public opinion finally prevails, to bring about restitution to our deserving Agent Orange exposed veterans. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, Admiral, and we, as The American Legion, appreciate all you are doing in the study of Agent Orange. We will continue to keep working with you and to keep working to finally put to rest the Agent Orange causes of cancer and that we want to see the people compensated as they should be.

We would like to present to you The American Legion Official History Book. You can read this and then you will know everything that there is to know about The American Legion.

We appreciate very much your coming here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Chair recognizes George W. Boucek of Illinois, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Finance for the purpose of making a report.

Report on CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FINANCE George W. Boucek (IL), Chairman

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GEORGE W. BOUCEK: Commander Epling, Members of this Convention and its guests.

Forty-six (46) members met at the Convention Center, Room 123, at 9:00 A.M., August 26, 1990, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Paul M. Allen (Minnesota), National Finance Director, opened the meeting as staff liaison, and announced that nominations were in order for Chairman and Secretary. George W. Boucek (Illinois) was elected Chairman, and Anthony J. Minei (New York) was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

The Chairman recognized National Treasurer Webber LaGrange (Indiana), who gave the Committee an economic and financial report.

The Chairman then introduced Daniel S. Wheeler (Virginia), Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of The American Legion Magazine, and Milford A. Forrester (South Carolina), Chairman of The American Legion Magazine Commission. Mr. Wheeler reported, he is expecting a magazine surplus of \$900,000. A big factor for this is the estimated \$6.5 million in advertising revenue. Additionally, they are expecting \$7,250,000 in advertising revenue for 1991. Chairman Boucek expressed his appreciation for the excellent work and the fine financial results of the Magazine staff.

Chairman Boucek reported that the Certified Audit shows a surplus of \$253,202 for the year ending December 31, 1989. Also, it appears we will have a break even for this year.

Richard Billig (District of Columbia) made a motion to empower the Chairman and Secretary to write and/or amend the report on behalf of the Convention Committee

on Finance. Robert D. Sharp (Missouri) seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Silas M. Noel (Kentucky) that the per capita dues for 1991 remain at \$5.50—\$2.75 for the General Fund, \$2.50 for The American Legion Magazine, and 25¢ for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Richard Vasina (Nebraska) seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. **THERE WILL BE NO DUES INCREASE FOR 1991.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

That concludes my Report, Commander Epling, and as a delegate from the State of Illinois, I move that the Report be adopted.

... The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously, and the Report of the Committee on Finance was adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, George, for that concise financial report, and for the welcome news that there will be no dues increase in 1991. We salute you and the Convention Committee on Finance for the excellent job you do and for your vision.

I am proud that The American Legion has always been an organization with the vision to build its programs on solid foundations. We make decisions with our feet planted firmly in the present, but with our eyes looking toward the future. Because of this, the things we have done have made a lasting impression on America and the image we have built has been a good one.

While we know this is true, too often we fail to toot our own horn and take credit for the good things we have accomplished. That's why I was especially pleased with a video production recently completed by The American Legion, and The American Legion Magazine Commission, under the leadership of Chairman Milford Forrester. Using the newest production technology, it highlights some of the Legion's accomplishments, and introduces our magazine to corporate America.

The response from CEO's, line executives and others has been overwhelmingly favorable, not because of what is said, but because of what each of you have done to make a difference in America. The values we share are the values of mainstream America.

We are in touch with America. We are America. And we have made a "lasting impression."

... At this time the lights dimmed and the video entitled "Lasting Impressions" was viewed by the delegates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Very good. I think that's a great piece we have there.

At this time the Chair recognizes William Detweiler of Louisiana, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Foreign Relations for the purpose of making a report.

Report of NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS William M. Detweiler (LA), Chairman

At 8:30 a.m., Sunday, August 26, 1990, 45 delegates and alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations met initially in Room 210 of the Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. William M. Detweiler (Louisiana) was elected Chairman and Mr. Arturo T. Benavides (Texas) was appointed Secretary.

Following this initial meeting, the six Ad Hoc Administrative Convention Subcommittees met in separate locations to consider the resolutions which had been assigned to them. Their recommended action is carried in the initial portion of this report. The following were appointed Chairmen:

General Foreign Policy:	Chairman: A. J. Forestiere (Arkansas)
African Affairs:	Chairman: George D. Triplett (Mexico)
European Affairs:	Chairman: Donald S. Houser (Virginia)
Far Eastern Affairs:	Chairman: Keith Baker (Iowa)
Inter-American Affairs:	Chairman: David S. Lusby (District of Columbia)
Middle Eastern Affairs:	Chairman: Edmund A. Zachman (Ohio)

At 10:00 a.m. on August 26, the delegates reassembled in Room 210 of the Convention Center for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations. Reports of all Convention Ad Hoc Subcommittees were read and their recommended actions on resolutions considered. A total of 69 resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations and one resolution was originated by the Committee.

The following Ad Hoc Subcommittee reports contain resolutions which will, in conjunction with resolutions previously adopted, provide an effective and viable foreign relations' program for The American Legion. That program will fully support a strong and dynamic U.S. Foreign Policy to promote democracy around the world and discharge America's responsibilities as leader of the Free World in the continuing struggle to defend and promote liberty.

Resolution No. 29 (LA) as amended and consolidated with Res. 274 (DC) Subject: America's Future

WHEREAS, The major international goals long sought by The American Legion—democracy and deterrence of Soviet imperialism—are closer to realization than ever before; and

WHEREAS, Far-reaching worldwide changes now occurring are altering Americans' perception of the threats to their security and making it imperative for the United States to adjust its grand strategy in light of new realities and future challenges as we prepare for the new millennium; and

WHEREAS, Ideas of democracy and market economics are gaining increasing acceptance around the world, thereby creating new hopes of peace and prosperity for mankind; and

WHEREAS, Despite limited internal reforms and cutbacks in foreign operations, the Soviet Union still poses a formidable threat to the Free World and transnational issues such as terrorism and drugs still confront civilization; and

WHEREAS, The collapse of the Soviet Bloc, demands for democracy in Eastern Europe, expansion of Japanese economic power, movement toward European unity, and growing international interdependence jointly create a new multipolar political situation in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States faces serious economic challenges through the relative decline of American economic influence in the world, trade and budget deficits which threaten to limit future prosperity, and worldwide economic competition; and

WHEREAS, As Americans search for a new definition of America's world role, they must forge a bipartisan consensus providing focus, continuity, and wise use of limited national resources for national security-foreign policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we, as a grassroots organization reaching throughout the land, recognize the unprecedented changes sweeping the world and urge the U.S. Government to adopt a bipartisan national security-foreign policy of "Democratic Activism" promoting democratic values, maintaining adequate military strength to deter aggression, cooperating with allies, encouraging free and fair trade, and assisting developing nations.

Resolution No. 277 (District of Columbia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 336 (Maryland) Subject: United States Foreign Policy

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion, as veterans of wartime service in the defense of liberty, have a special concern for maintaining peace with freedom and recognize that a strong U.S. foreign policy is vital in that regard; and

WHEREAS, The official concern of The American Legion stems from that part of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion which states: "We associate ourselves together . . . to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy . . . ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we believe that the objectives of U.S. foreign policy must be to maintain peace with freedom with preserving and promoting democracy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That U.S. foreign policy must embody the following principles:

1. Recognition of U.S. responsibilities as leader of the Free World and of our heritage and traditions.
2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.
3. Active promotion of democracy.
4. Participation in collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.
5. Provisions and maintenance of economic, military and humanitarian assistance to friendly nations to promote U.S. interests.
6. Support for strategically important resistance movements struggling against totalitarianism.
7. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security by increasing the stability of deterrent forces at lower levels of armaments in all categories.
8. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking, which challenge the civilized world.
9. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.
10. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.
11. Recognition that the world operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interests.
12. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight.

Resolution No. 327 (Maryland) Subject: Terrorism

WHEREAS, International state terrorism is widespread, impeding civilized conduct and causing target states to restrict the lives of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government and American interests at home and abroad are frequently terrorist targets; and

WHEREAS, To make concessions to terrorists or alter policy as the result of terrorist actions, although possibly expedient in the short run, invites even more terrorist actions in the long run; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we strongly urge the U.S. Government to assign the highest priority to combatting terrorism and to retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of terrorist acts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the news media should be solicited to exercise responsibility and restraint in recounting acts of terrorism in order to reduce their propaganda effect and to report those claiming responsibility only after the proper law enforcement agencies have apprehended the perpetrators.

Resolution No. 333 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Control of Chemical and Biological Weapons

WHEREAS, The use of chemical weapons by both Iran and Iraq has spurred a new arms race to develop chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, It is expected that North Korea, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China, Egypt, Israel, Syria, and Libya are developing both chemical and biological weapons which have devastating capabilities; and

WHEREAS, These chemical weapons, if placed in the hands of outlaw countries or terrorists, will have serious security implications; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the President and the Congress to establish tight controls over chemical weapons technology and materials, and to coordinate the undiluted acceptance of these controls to prevent the exporting of such technology and materials to radical countries; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Government to continue to seek multinational negotiations to ban the use of chemical and biological weapons; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That any such treaties or agreements be equitable and verifiable.

Resolution No. 345 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Nuclear Proliferation

WHEREAS, The nuclear club now includes six nations: the United States (1945); Soviet Union (1949); Great Britain (1952); France (1960); People's Republic of China (1969); and India (1974); and

WHEREAS, Several other nations are believed to be very close to possessing nuclear weapons, and many other nations will acquire the knowledge to manufacture nuclear weapons in coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear proliferation is contrary to U.S. national interests because the spread of nuclear weapons will complicate national strategic planning, impede arms control, and increase the possibility of nuclear weapons being used for terrorism or blackmail; and

WHEREAS, Several desirable, but imperfect, steps have been taken to prevent nuclear proliferation, including: International Atomic Energy Agency (1958), to promote and regulate peaceful uses of nuclear power; Nonproliferation Treaty (1970), to halt the spread of nuclear weapons; and U.S. Nuclear Proliferation Act (1976), to ensure U.S. nuclear exports are used for peaceful purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to take all reasonable steps to halt nuclear proliferation.

Resolution No. 346 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Information Activities

WHEREAS, Hundreds of millions of people in many countries do not have access to objective news reports, lack accurate information about democracy, free enterprise, and American life and are subjected to extensive communist propaganda and disinformation; and

WHEREAS, Despite some changes in the USSR and Soviet Bloc, a major need still exists for the United States to communicate the good news about Western ideals and institutions; and

WHEREAS, Pressures continually exist to reduce spending for international information activities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should provide adequate funds to conduct an effective international program to provide other nations with objective news, information about the blessings of democracy and the free enterprise system, and accurate reporting of communism's suppression of freedom and international aggression.

Resolution No. 347 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: United Nations

WHEREAS, The United Nations has frequently failed to achieve its basic purpose of maintaining international peace and security, and politization of some UN activities has drastically reduced the UN's effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, The United States provides the greatest assessed share of the UN budget and provides an even higher percentage of voluntary contributions to some UN special programs; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations continues to be effective by coordinating international cooperation in some functional areas (such as refugee relief, meteorology, and cooperation of radio frequency use); and

WHEREAS, U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations would very likely result in the United Nations becoming an unchecked anti-U.S. propaganda arena; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes.

Resolution No. 354 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Foreign Aid

WHEREAS, Since World War II the United States has effectively used foreign aid as an important means of achieving national security objectives; and

WHEREAS, Economic assistance has helped improve economic growth in many lesser developed countries and created employment opportunities for Americans by opening new markets for U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, Humanitarian assistance has provided life-sustaining aid to millions of needy people; and

WHEREAS, Security assistance has aided friendly nations in improving their military capabilities, thereby helping meet the Soviet military threat; and

WHEREAS, Compared to other types of spending, the U.S. foreign aid program is relatively modest (it represents less than 2% of the federal budget); and

WHEREAS, In 1983 the Commission on Security and Economic Assistance appointed by the President and chaired by Mr. Frank Carlucci concluded: "On balance . . . U.S. assistance programs make an indispensable contribution to achieving foreign policy objectives"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of attaining U.S. foreign national security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve growth and military security; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will endeavor to increase public awareness of how foreign aid serves U.S. national interests.

Rejected

Resolution No. 24 (Massachusetts) Subject: Limitation Of Foreign Investments

Resolution No. 355 (Maryland) Subject: Aiding Freedom Fighters

African Affairs

George D. Triplett (Mexico), Chairman

Resolution No. 348 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Angola

WHEREAS, Angola, under the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) regime, has continued existence as a surrogate state of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has shown great strength in recent years; and

WHEREAS, The leader of UNITA has demonstrated commendable leadership and initiative which seem to indicate that if successful, the government of Angola under UNITA would be a state independent of outside interests, with protection of human rights and a viable government not based on Marxist concepts and practices; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have great interests in Luanda Harbor, one of the largest and best harbors on the west coast of Africa and the main support base for the Soviet's West African patrol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to support strongly the UNITA movement with military weapons and other means to establish a government devoted to Angola's national interest.

Resolution No. 350 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: South Africa

WHEREAS, We recognize that South Africa is going through great unrest, which is challenging its political and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, It is not U.S. policy to interfere in the internal affairs of any country; and

WHEREAS, Some people are urging South Africa to adopt a "one-person, one-vote" government. This could likely result in the "tyranny of the majority" and would be unlike the U.S. political system and other advanced democracies which generally have placed limits on majority rule; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is concerned that a nation with a long record of

friendship for the United States, and which is strategically located, is having to experience such turmoil; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to adopt a policy toward South Africa of supporting moderates who seek equality and representative democracy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should respect the sovereignty of the Government of South Africa by recognizing that the problem of South Africa in dismantling apartheid is primarily one that must be solved by the South Africans themselves; and be it further

RESOLVED, That economic sanctions should not be used against South Africa because they are counterproductive in promoting democratic changes; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should encourage South Africa to adopt a political system that will meet the needs of all the people of South Africa

Rejected

Resolution No. 349 (Maryland) Subject: **Mozambique**

European Affairs

Donald S. Houser (VA), Chairman

Resolution No. 312 (Maryland) consolidated with Res. 436 (Virginia) Subject: **Conventional Arms Control In Europe**

WHEREAS, On March 9, 1989, the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) commenced among 23 NATO and Warsaw Pact nations with the objective of negotiating an arms control agreement on conventional forces from the Atlantic to the Urals; and

WHEREAS, NATO has maintained the peace and freedom in Western Europe for over 40 years by possessing credible deterrent forces across the entire spectrum of conventional and nuclear conflict; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support the concept of conventional arms control in Europe, provided that any negotiated agreement establishes equality between Warsaw Pact and NATO conventional forces, removes all Soviet forces from Eastern Europe, contains effective measures for verification, and contributes to effective deterrence across the entire spectrum of conventional and nuclear conflict.

Resolution No. 337 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: **Turkey**

WHEREAS, The security of the United States largely depends on the maintenance of freedom in Western Europe, which has endured for more than 40 years under the Atlantic Alliance; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that this alliance be preserved through good relations and reasonable support of true friends in the region; and

WHEREAS, In addition to other necessary actions, particularly notable and worthy, is the support of Turkey continuing as a vital part of NATO through a Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement between our two countries; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has demonstrated its friendship through consistently opposing communism and guarding the southern flank of NATO; and

WHEREAS, Turkey requires modernization of its military forces, which number some 600,000 men under arms, but have the oldest equipment in NATO. Yet there is a potential in Congress to attach restrictions to aid for Turkey, (such as certification by the President on the Greek/Cypriot problem) which Turkish national pride may find objectionable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support aid to the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement, without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and

urge that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States.

Resolution No. 351 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: **Canada**

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada have been at peace for over 200 years and have the longest arms-free border in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada were allies in World War I and II and Korea and continue military cooperation in NATO and the North American Air and Space Defense Command; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have the largest bilateral trade of any two nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada have signed a free trade agreement which is being gradually implemented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should pursue policies toward Canada which will provide for free trade, continued military cooperation, and cooperation in all endeavors which benefit both nations.

Resolution No. 435 (Virginia) consolidated with Res. 338 (Maryland) Subject: **Halting The Technology Flow To The Soviet Union**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union uses a variety of means to obtain advanced military technology from U.S. universities, defense contractors, government agencies and business firms; and

WHEREAS, This ill-gotten technology enables the Soviet Union to save money on its military build-up and equip its armed forces with advanced weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Defense, Commerce, State Departments jointly develop a coordinated program to stop the illegal flow of technology to any foreign country.

Resolution No. 437 (Virginia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 184 (Pennsylvania) and 341 (Maryland) Subject: **Eastern Europe**

WHEREAS, Following World War II the Soviet Union unlawfully subjugated Eastern Europe, imposing a brutal system of totalitarian communist control which persecuted the people, wrecked the economies, integrated satellite military forces into the Warsaw Pact, and used regional resources to support Soviet aggression in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, In the Revolution of '89 the people of Eastern Europe expressed their yearnings for democracy, individual rights, peace with freedom, and free enterprise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support democracy and free enterprise in Eastern Europe and call upon the U.S. Government to provide aid, technical assistance, and moral leadership to encourage this important region.

Resolution No. 438 (Virginia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 339 (Maryland) Subject: **Soviet Imperialism**

WHEREAS, Long experience indicates that Soviet communism produces totalitarian suppression of individual rights; gross economic inefficiency; and an aggressive, expansionist foreign policy; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet threat to security, buttressed by the Kremlin's huge military forces remains acute to many nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the American people must continue to resist Soviet imperialism, always keeping in mind the long record of human misery it has caused; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion must continue to educate and to inform the American people of the Soviet threat and of the need to resist that threat whenever and wherever it may appear.

Resolution No. 439 (Virginia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 352 (Maryland) Subject: **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has preserved peace and stability in Europe for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, Membership in NATO serves U.S. interests; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of NATO has clearly been demonstrated by the revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe, deterioration of the Warsaw Pact, and reductions in Soviet military capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Conventional Forces in Europe talks give promise of asymmetrical Warsaw Pact force reductions and improved stability in Europe; and

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to maintain the forward deployment of U.S. troops in NATO and not to reduce them except in the context of agreement between NATO and the Warsaw Pact for force reductions through the Conventional Forces in Europe Talks; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Government to encourage our NATO allies to take those actions necessary to meet any threats to the security and stability of Europe and areas of common interest outside the North Atlantic Treaty area.

Resolution No. 440 (Virginia) consolidated with Res. 340 (Maryland) Subject: **US-Soviet Relations**

WHEREAS, President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union has announced that he intends to make major changes in Soviet domestic and foreign policies through the principles of glasnost (openness in political affairs), perestroika (restructuring the economy), and new thinking (reorientation of foreign policy to a less belligerent stance); and

WHEREAS, President Gorbachev has indicated these new policies are essential in order to obtain Western aid, trade, and technology, thus helping to improve productivity, fill consumer needs, and gain admittance of the Soviet economy into the Western World's international economic system; and

WHEREAS, There have been a few Soviet actions to implement President Gorbachev's new policies (such as military withdrawal from Afghanistan and an announcement of unilateral troop reductions), but the Soviet Union still maintains large military forces in Eastern Europe, supports selected revolutions in the Third World, and maintains a large military edge over the NATO nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should welcome any real, substantive changes in Soviet policies that remove Soviet dominance over other nations, terminate export of revolution and terrorism, and reduce Soviet military forces to a reasonable defense posture capable only of self-defense; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should base its actions on actual Soviet deeds, not Soviet statements of intentions.

Resolution No. 441 (Virginia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 342 (Maryland) Subject: **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has for many years recognized the utility of equitable arms control agreements which enhance national security, the survivability of nuclear weapons, and the stability of the US-USSR nuclear balance; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion also has called for effective unalterable guarantees for compliance, including on-site verification inspections by both sides; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Soviet Union have engaged in Strategic Arms Reduction Talks for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, In order for the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to maintain credible deterrence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact across the entire spectrum of military conflict, the reduction of U.S. and NATO nuclear capabilities by START must be designed in conjunction with US-NATO objectives, strategy, force structure, and deployments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, provided it is equal, verifiable, and enhances the security of the United States and its allies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Strategic Defense Initiative must not be traded as a bargaining chip; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That adequate steps must be taken to maintain credible deterrence and war-fighting capability across the entire spectrum of conflict: nuclear, conventional, and chemical.

Resolution No. 442 (Virginia) consolidated with Res. 353 (Maryland) Subject: **Strategic Nuclear Policy**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has greatly expanded its nuclear capabilities and achieved at least rough nuclear strategic equivalence with the United States, which, until recently had seriously neglected modernization of its nuclear forces; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, for many years recognized the utility of equitable arms control measures and, accordingly, has supported arms control measures which provide for effective unalterable guarantees for compliance, including on-site inspections by both sides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support:

1. A United States nuclear deterrent force TRIAD at least equivalent to Soviet nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring Soviet attack, or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.

2. Continuation of United States underground nuclear testing as necessary to modernize nuclear offensive and defensive forces and to ensure the reliability of existing nuclear weapons.

3. Verifiable implementation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

4. Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of strategic nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and the United States to equal levels, resulting in stable nuclear deterrence at lower levels of armaments and with a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.

5. Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include on-site inspection by both sides.

6. Full integration of nuclear arms control into national security planning by the United States and its allies to ensure strategic stability and credible deterrence.

Far Eastern Affairs **Keith Baker (IA), Chairman**

Resolution No. 190 (Pennsylvania) as amended. Subject: **People's Republic of China**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization made up of veterans who have fought for freedom; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports freedom-loving people all over the world; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese people in Communist China have demonstrated for their freedom, especially in May and June of 1989; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese government quelled the demonstration by killing hundreds of Chinese people in Tiananmen Square in June of 1989; and

WHEREAS, President Bush has seen fit to grant most favored nation trade status to Communist China; and

WHEREAS, By giving this most favored nation trade status, it gives the wrong signal to the communist government and leaves the impression the United States overlooks this human rights violation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we hereby petition President Bush to keep under review the most favored nation trade status until the Government of the People's Republic of China relaxes its opposition to the rights and freedoms of the Chinese people and their right to demonstrate for such freedom.

Resolution No. 313 (Maryland) consolidated with Res. 136 (Illinois) and Res. 367 (Colorado) Subject: **Indochina POW/MIAs**

WHEREAS, There are currently approximately 2,300 Americans still prisoner, missing, or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; and

WHEREAS, The families of those missing United States servicemen and civilians still suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to lack of adequate accounting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the United States Government to continue assigning highest priority to resolve the status of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Indochina; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we reject any attempt by the Government of Vietnam, or others, to link resolution of the issue to political matters which divide our countries and call upon Hanoi to honor its pledge to cooperate fully and to exert every possible effort to resolve this humanitarian issue; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Government to ensure this issue remains one of the highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any American who may still be prisoner in Indochina, the fullest possible accounting of those still missing, and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

Resolution No. 314 (Maryland) consolidated with Res. 115 (Oregon) and Res. 462 (Washington) Subject: **World War II and Korean War POW/MIAs**

WHEREAS, Questions persist as to the possibility that American POWs from World War II and the Korean War are still held alive in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, It is a prime responsibility of the U.S. Government to exert every effort after each war to obtain the release of all American POWs held by foreign powers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to give priority attention to solving the POW/MIA issues from World War II and the Korean War by obtaining the release of any live American POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the President clearly designate which department or agency is responsible for such activities and provide it the necessary personnel and resources to do the job.

Resolution No. 315 (Maryland) Subject: **The Philippines Armed Forces**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union is engaged in aggressive initiatives in several parts of the Pacific area; and

WHEREAS, The strategic bases which fell to North Vietnam and are now being utilized by the Soviet Union at Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang are only 700 miles from the Philippines and furnish an ideal support area for the maintenance of a strong, aggressive communist insurgency in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The growth of the well-organized communist insurgency has not received urgent attention thus far in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It may be expected that the guerilla war of the communists in the Philippines will follow a classic insurgency pattern in the future by intensifying and spreading; and

WHEREAS, The armed forces of the Philippines are inadequately equipped and trained to cope with this insurgency as expressed by President Aquino's remark: "How do you expect us to fight, with our bare hands and feet?"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government adopt a long-term policy supporting the armed forces of the Philippines in material and training so they can adequately counter the well-organized and well-supported communist insurgency forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That funds adequate for this purpose be appropriated.

Resolution No. 331 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: **Dealing with Vietnam on the POW/MIA Issue**

WHEREAS, We recognize that the POW/MIA issue is one of grave concern and have supported responsible U.S. Government efforts to resolve this major humanitarian-prob-

lem; however, we believe the idea of giving diplomatic recognition to Vietnam before satisfactory resolution of the POW/MIA issue would be blackmail and an insult to all who died and suffered in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, We continue to support the U.S. Government's vigorous efforts to secure a full accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the Vietnam War, short of providing recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we strongly oppose any proposal that the United States give diplomatic recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information concerning our POW/MIAs.

Resolution No. 332 (Maryland) as amended and consolidated with Res. 564 (Philippines) Subject: Philippines

WHEREAS, Following Commodore Dewey's 1898 victory over Spanish naval forces in Manila Bay, the Philippines became a U.S. colony and remained so until independence was granted in 1946; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Philippines fought as allies to defeat the Japanese in World War II, an experience which established many U.S.-Philippine ties, as did the relatively constructive and benign U.S. policies during the colonial era; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, many severe problems have confronted the Philippines, including an economic downturn, increasing foreign debt, political dissention, and growing communist insurgency; and

WHEREAS, U.S. policy toward the Philippines has consistently favored democracy, economic development, and military cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Since 1947, the United States has used designated military bases in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Loss of U.S. base rights for Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base would severely hamper the projection of U.S. naval and air power in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to pursue policies toward the Philippines which will permit continued U.S. use of Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, encourage the strengthening of democracy, promote economic development, and provide material aid to defeat the communist insurgency; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Philippine Government, in a spirit of friendship and comradeship to pursue policies which will encourage democracy, economic development, national security, and continued cooperation with the United States.

Resolution No. 334 (Maryland) Subject: Japan

WHEREAS, The Soviet naval, air and ground threat in East Asia has increased greatly in the past few years; and

WHEREAS, Japan allocates only about 1% of its gross national product to defense while the United States allocates over 5%; and

WHEREAS, Japan has the economic capacity to provide a stronger self-defense because it has developed one of the most productive economies in the world and is a major trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Serious trade problems exist between Japan and the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should make a determined effort to encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense and to develop equitable trading practices between itself and the United States.

Resolution No. 335 (Maryland) Subject: Military Sales To Mainland China

WHEREAS, The Government of the People's Republic of China has clearly shown its intention to remain in power by brutally suppressing any democratic movement; and

WHEREAS, The United States has over the past few years transferred to the Chinese communist regime military equipment and technology, including highly sophisticated air-

borne radar and fire control systems, which could, in the future, be used against America's friends and allies in the Far East; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the United States government to refrain from the transfer of military and dual-use equipment and technology to the Chinese communists.

Resolution No. 480 (Alaska) as amended. Subject: **Republic of Korea**

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is politically and militarily vital to the United States and to the defense and stability of the Pacific and Asian regions; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous treaties in force with the Republic of Korea, concerning aviation, consular affairs, defense, economic and technical cooperation, education, finance, fisheries, maritime matters, trade and commerce, and especially the Mutual Defense Treaty which was entered into force November 17, 1954; and

WHEREAS, Now the world is experiencing a grand wave of reform and openness which, everyone hopes, will lead to peace and greater stability for all. The atmosphere of reconciliation, compromise and peaceful democratization is easily felt everywhere in the world, and in particular, East and West Germany are accelerating their pace of reunification; and

WHEREAS, North Korea maintains an extremely large, modern military force capable of launching offensive operations on short notice and has never renounced the use of military force as a means to attain its goal of bringing the entire Korean peninsula under communist domination; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea's proposal for "the Korean National Community Unification Formula" of September 11, 1989 is the most feasible, rational and well-intentioned plan on the basis of friendly compromise heretofore proposed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea's refusal to enter into dialogue concerning the peaceful reunification plan is based solely on their continued illusion that reunification may be accomplished only through use of their superior military power, of which they continue to boast; and

WHEREAS, The intent of North Korea to use military force against the Republic of Korea has often been manifested by continual infiltration of armed agents into the Republic of Korea and the construction of many tunnels under the DMZ which provide the capability of moving large contingents of military personnel and equipment into the Republic of Korea unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has completed redeployment of corp-sized artillery, armor and mechanized infantry units and amassed at least 100,000 commandos in close proximity to the Demilitarized Zone; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has substantially increased its military buildup, equipping its forces with high-tech weapons to include Soviet-built 3 fighter aircraft and T-72 tanks, both far superior to the outmoded equipment in the South's arsenal; and

WHEREAS, The redeployment and buildup by North Korea considerably reduces the warning time previously enjoyed by the Korean and U.S. forces and poses a serious threat to the security of Korea; and

WHEREAS, The presence of a large contingent of U.S. ground and air forces in the Republic of Korea serves as a real deterrent to North Korea to precipitate aggression; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the United States to increase its military aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development, and promote the cause of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Asian regions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States provide a strong, flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the United States in concert with the U.S.S.R. bring pressure to bear

on North Korea to stop resisting irreversible world trends and join the international community as a responsible member by adopting democratic reform and an openness policy.

Resolution No. 481 (Alaska) as amended. Subject: Republic of China

WHEREAS, Infantry and armored forces of the Chinese communists People's Liberation Army, under direction of the Chinese Communist Party leadership, crushed with massive force and violence the pro-democracy movement in Peking, on June 4, 1989, killing and wounding unknown thousands of unarmed civilians; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese communist regime followed the "Tien An Men" massacre with arrests and executions of student leaders and others involved in the pro-democracy movement; and

WHEREAS, In the past year since the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, the Chinese communist regime has shown a turn against liberalization and democratization in favor of the discredited, hard-line Communism, which suppresses human rights and prohibits a free market economy; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan has recently instituted substantive political and economic reforms, designed to increase popular participation in governmental affairs, as well as to liberalize and promote economic relations with other countries, especially the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan is the fifth-largest trading partner of the United States and is serving as a free enterprise model of economic and political development for countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, based on its own development experiences; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communist regime has attempted to isolate the Republic of China on Taiwan diplomatically for over two decades; and

WHEREAS, Communist leaders have repeatedly stated that they will not rule out the use of military force, if the Republic of China on Taiwan does not voluntarily reunite under the communist regime; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is strategically located, with a strong military force, which if properly armed, can contribute to the maintenance of peace, stability, security, and freedom in the Far East, an area of vital importance to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan requires modern weapons, aircraft, and military technology to counter threats of blockade and invasion; and

WHEREAS, A decade ago in 1979, the United States Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, (United States Public Law 96-8), which Act has provided a framework for governing relations between the United States and the Republic of China after President Carter broke diplomatic relations with the Republic of China, abrogated the Mutual Defense Treaty, and withdrew all United States military personnel from Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Section 3 (a) of the Taiwan Relations Act states: "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support the full implementation and strengthening of the Taiwan Relations Act, especially the defense provisions thereof, and urge the U.S. Government to make available to the Republic of China such defense articles, services, and technology to enable the Republic of China to both maintain a sufficient self-defense capability and assist the United States in maintaining peace and stability in the Far East; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we firmly oppose any amendment of The Taiwan Relations Act which would show a waning of support for the Republic of China on Taiwan or which would otherwise adversely affect the interests of the United States in Asia; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we oppose efforts by the Chinese communists to isolate Taiwan and fully support bilateral and multi-lateral economic, military, and political cooperation with the Republic of China, so as to foster international friendship, brotherhood, and prosperity in the Pacific Rim area.

Rejected

Resolution No. 7 (Nebraska) Subject: POW/MIA Investigation

Resolution No. 208 (Minnesota) Subject: Disclosure of POW/MIA Information

Resolution No. 387 (Missouri) Subject: POW/MIA Policy

Resolution No. 459 (Washington) Subject: Return of POWs From the Soviet Union

**Inter-American Affairs
David S. Lusby (DC), Chairman**

Resolution No. 113 (Mexico) as amended. Subject: Inter-American Development Bank

WHEREAS, The negative balance of payments suffered by the U.S. in 1985 (148.5 billion dollars), 1986 (169.5 billion dollars), and 1987 (170 billion dollars), according to economists from the United States and abroad were caused by a lack of exports, and, if not corrected, could provoke a worldwide recession; and

WHEREAS, Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy established a trend later followed by President Reagan in his "Caribbean Basin Initiative" (CBI), for economic support in Latin America. The "Good Neighbor Policy" of President Roosevelt, the New-Port Declaration of President Eisenhower, and the creation of the Inter-American Development Bank by President Kennedy all contributed to making Latin America a major U.S. export market; and

WHEREAS, The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) lent over 100 billion dollars to Latin America between 1961 and 1987 which resulted in the acquisition of \$60 billion worth of industrial goods, \$30 billion of which was produced in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Recent developments in Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, Columbia and Haiti have created an impression that the United States lacks the will to make tough political and economic decisions required to protect democracies and safeguard our population from the growing menace of drug-related economies; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's 16,000 posts work together with the 12,000 units of The American Legion Auxiliary to improve the quality of their communities, especially as they labor to assist teenagers suffering from drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, A strong economic structure contributes to the development of the moral force necessary to wipeout the corruption, that affects our citizens both young and old; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to provide ample and adequate funds for the Inter-American Development Bank, so that during the rest of this century it can make strategic infrastructure development loans which would result in increased export sales of U.S.-made goods totaling \$100 billion annually and the creation of new US jobs totaling 5 million, as well as help eliminate our balance of trade problems, restore a non-drug based Latin America economy and restore, throughout Latin America, respect for, and confidence in the American Way of Life.

Resolution No. 316 (Maryland) Subject: El Salvador

WHEREAS, Since 1980, El Salvador has made substantial progress toward democracy: several free and fair elections have been held, power has been transferred from one political party to another, civil control of the military has increased, programs to revitalize the economy have been undertaken; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government has recognized a vital U.S. interest in supporting the Salvadoran government in its efforts to expand democracy and defeat the insurgents, who have disrupted society and destroyed billions of dollars worth of economic resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to provide adequate military and economic aid to El Salvador to assist in achieving democracy and suppressing the insurgents.

Resolution No. 319 (Maryland) Subject: Referendum For Puerto Rico

WHEREAS, In the Treaty of Paris of 1898 ending the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have repeatedly answered the call to defend Puerto Rico and the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is a commonwealth associated with the United States and governed by locally elected executive and legislative branches; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States but pay no tax on island-generated income and cannot vote in U.S. presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico currently elects one non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives but, if Puerto Rico became a state, it would elect two Senators and approximately six members of the House, thus acquiring much more direct representation in the Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government; and

WHEREAS, Opinion in Puerto Rico is divided among those who favor continuation of commonwealth status, statehood, or independence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Congress of the United States promptly complete legislation to provide a referendum to Puerto Rico concerning the future status of the island. The referendum is to provide the following options: (1) complete independence (2) statehood, or (3) continued commonwealth status; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Government of the United States act promptly carry out the will of the Puerto Rican people that will have been expressed in the above mentioned referendum.

Resolution No. 320 (Maryland) Subject: Cuban Drug Trafficking

WHEREAS, Reports in the United States have documented the involvement of officials of the Government of Cuba in international drug trafficking; and

WHEREAS, An impressive array of testimony on the Government of Cuba's involvement in drug trafficking has been placed in the public record; and

WHEREAS, The cultivation of marijuana in Cuba has been described as an official state operation, protected by special military forces; and

WHEREAS, Cuban airstrips and waters are safe havens for drug traffickers; and

WHEREAS, Drug traffickers are permitted to land in Cuba and to shift drugs to boats and planes in preparation for illegal entry of such cargo into the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has provided various other assistance, including the protection of Cuban military security forces, to assist illegal drug operations in other countries, particularly certain Caribbean nations; and

WHEREAS, The problem of illicit drugs in the United States is seriously worsened by the complicity of Cuba in international drug trafficking; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Congress and the President should condemn the role of Cuba in international drug trafficking in all appropriate international fora.

Resolution No. 321 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Reexamination of Panama Canal Treaties

WHEREAS, In 1977 the United States entered into two treaties with Panama transferring full control of the Panama Canal to Panama in 2000 and guaranteeing its neutrality; and

WHEREAS, A decade later, disagreement persists as to whether or not those treaties (as amended) were fully and constitutionally ratified by either Panama or the United States and, therefore, whether or not the U.S. and Panamanian additions are binding. Chief among them whether or not the United States has the unilateral right to defend the Canal from internal threats within Panama to its safety and operation, as well as from external threats; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we request the President of the United States to call upon the U.S. Senate to promptly undertake intensive hearings, with full debate, for the purpose of reexamining the 1977 Treaties with Panama, our rights and commitments thereunder, with an eye to recommending renegotiating or renouncing them after having resolved once and for all the contradictions presently encumbering said treaties.

Resolution No. 322 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Panama Canal

WHEREAS, American ingenuity and funds coupled with hard work by thousands of Panamanians and citizens of the Caribbean Islands built the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal is, and will remain, a vital seaway for U.S. commerce and naval operations; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal Treaties, signed on September 7, 1977 by the United States and Panama, provide for a gradual transition of the Panama Canal to Panamanian control in 2000 and permanent neutrality of the canal with the United States retaining freedom of action to maintain the canal's neutrality; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Panama have a long record of military cooperation, effected through the U.S. Southern Command; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that:

1. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure Panama will be able to operate the Panama canal efficiently after Panama assumes control.

2. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure that the Panama Canal is operated efficiently and in a manner consistent with U.S. national security interests.

3. Construction of a new canal or major improvements in the existing Panama Canal should be consistent with U.S. national security interests.

4. Continued U.S.-Panamanian military cooperation through the U.S. Southern Command is essential to help protect evolving democratic nations in the area and the Panama Canal.

5. The United States should encourage democratic evolution in Panama to help provide political stability and a better, freer life for Panamanians.

Resolution No. 323 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Nicaragua

WHEREAS, The electoral victory of President Chamorro and the United Nicaraguan Opposition over the Sandinistas in early 1990 created an opportunity for Nicaragua to achieve democracy, peace, and prosperity after a decade of suppression and misrule by the Sandinistas; and

WHEREAS, The achievement of democracy and progress in Nicaragua represent important goals that are in the U.S. national interest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to provide adequate aid to Nicaragua to help achieve democracy, peace with freedom, and prosperity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should encourage the Government of Nicaragua to disband the huge and unnecessary military force created by the Sandinistas with Soviet and Cuban assistance.

Resolution No. 324 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Mexico

WHEREAS, The United States and Mexico are historic neighbors with a common heritage and thousands of miles of common boundary; and

WHEREAS, The economic situation in Mexico requires financial cooperation from all sources to enable her to overcome her crisis; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a natural interest in Mexico's development and progress due to our common border; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Bloc now provides thousands of college scholarships annually to Latin American students; and

WHEREAS, Mexico leads all nations in the percentage of its trade with the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Mexican-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both national as well as that of the Western Hemisphere; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should provide a greatly expanded number of scholarships to Mexicans, particularly those lacking funds to attend undergraduate and appropriate vocational-technical programs, provided said students promise to return to Mexico after completing their education; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a student exchange program between Mexico and the United States be conducted to acquaint the future leaders of both countries with their neighbors; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That in all economic transactions with Mexico (especially those dealing with procurement of petroleum products and other sources of energy) the U.S. Government should provide Mexico equal or greater consideration as compared to other nations supplying the same products.

Resolution No. 325 (Maryland) Subject: Honduras

WHEREAS, Honduras has maintained a democratic form of government and cooperated with U.S. efforts to curtail the export of revolution within Central America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the United States should encourage development of a free, democratic, more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance.

Resolution No. 326 (Maryland) Subject: Guatemala

WHEREAS, Guatemala is the largest country in Central America and is strategically located on Mexico's southern border near the large Mexican oil fields; and

WHEREAS, Since 1982, Guatemala has greatly reduced extra-legal killings and adopted a comprehensive counter-insurgency plan aimed at increasing the size of the armed forces, employing them under a professional code of conduct, and establishing local civic-action programs to address the people's economic and social needs; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a vital interest and responsibility in assisting Guatemala to maintain its independence and consolidate democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should continue trying to influence the Guatemalan government to evolve toward a democratic orientation while providing improved political, economic, and social conditions for the people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy.

Resolution No. 328 (Maryland) Subject: Cuba

WHEREAS, The Kennedy-Khrushchev understandings of 1962, which terminated the Cuba missile crisis, have proven to be a long-term strategic setback for the United States because they "legitimized" what has been a growing Soviet presence in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union continues to provide billions of dollars worth of aid to Cuba annually; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has provided military equipment (e.g., nuclear capable MIG-23 fighter-bombers, missile attack boats, and attack submarines) suitable for interdicting U.S. military ships to NATO Europe in time of crisis; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has acted as a Soviet surrogate in exporting revolution to Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Central America; and

WHEREAS, Soviet operations based in Cuba have grown over the last two decades to include a ground combat brigade, naval facilities, and the largest electronic collection facility outside the Soviet Union; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should be urged to continue economic sanctions against Cuba, maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, continue intelligence over-flights over Cuba, and take whatever steps are necessary to halt Cuban export of revolution to other nations in Latin America by diplomacy, economic assistance, or security assistance, or, as a last resort, direct U.S. military action.

Resolution No. 329 (Maryland) Subject: Costa Rica

WHEREAS, Costa Rica, for several decades, has had a stable, democratic government providing a life a freedom for its people; and

WHEREAS, Until recently, Costa Rica has made excellent economic progress but in the past few years has experienced serious economic problems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indian-

apolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the United States should provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain economic prosperity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should provide any type of security assistance requested by Costa Rica to defend its democratic system.

Resolution No. 330 (Maryland) Subject: Caribbean Basin

WHEREAS, The Caribbean is in an area of vital interest to the United States because of its proximity, sealanes, and resources; and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Basin nations suffer varying degrees, from poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and disease; and

WHEREAS, Most nations in the Caribbean Basin are friendly to the United States and seek to maintain or establish democratic political systems; and

WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, the Soviet union, acting through Cuba, has created a significant military threat to sealanes vital for deployment to NATO Europe and an increasingly powerful base for the export of revolution to the area; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Congress approved the Caribbean Basin Initiative giving duty-free access to the U.S. market for 12 years to most Caribbean Basin exports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the Caribbean Basin Initiative be fully implemented and expanded to permit duty free access to the U.S. market for all Caribbean Basin products for a 12-year period, thus encouraging productive activity to promote economic growth; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should provide economic and security assistance as needed to help develop prosperous, democratic societies in the region; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations at the college and high school levels and increased support for primary education to promote literacy.

Rejected

Resolution No. 466 (Maine) Subject: Abrogation of Panama Canal Treaties

Middle Eastern Affairs

Edmund A. Zachman (OH), Chairman

Resolution No. 317 (Maryland) Subject: Middle East

WHEREAS, The United States has a continuing national interest in creating conditions wherein Israel can exist as a recognized nation within secure borders, living in peace with its Arab neighbors and acting as a democratic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Europe and Japan rely on the Middle East for a great deal of their petroleum, and the United States imports some petroleum from the area; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon will contribute to stability in the area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should adopt a comprehensive policy for the middle East to achieve the following objectives:

1. A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab States.
2. Prevent the region from being dominated by any power.
3. A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States.
4. Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Resolution No. 318 (Maryland) as amended. Subject: Afghanistan

WHEREAS, In December 1979, the Soviet Union blatantly violated the UN Charter by invading Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, The gallant Afghan freedom fighters bravely opposed the Soviet invasion; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union used a wide range of draconian measures in an attempt

to crush the Afghan freedom fighters, including chemical warfare and aerial bombing, but was eventually compelled to withdraw in 1989; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union continues providing large amounts of material aid and advisers to Afghanistan's communist government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the United States and other Free World nations to provide adequate humanitarian aid to the Afghan freedom fighters and refugees as they struggle to establish a government devoted to Afghanistan's national interests.

Resolution No. 603 (Committee) Subject: Iraq

WHEREAS, The Government of Iraq has illegally siezed the sovereign state of Kuwait, contrary to the pledge not to do so by President Saddam Hussein; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations has condemned the actions of the Government of Iraq and called for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, World public opinion has coalesced against the actions of the Government of Iraq, including the majority of Arab governments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we commend the President of the United States for his very effective diplomatic efforts and express our firm support for the rapid and highly professional deployment of U.S. military forces in concert with those of Arab and Western countries to deter further acts of aggression by Iraq and to be prepared to carry out necessary actions in furtherance of U.S. national interests.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: Mr. Commander, as a duly-elected Delegate from the Department of Louisiana, I move the adoption of the Report of the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Is the motion seconded?

... The motion was seconded.

... The question was called for.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: All in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed, no. The ayes have it and it is so ordered.

The Report of Foreign Relations is adopted.

The Chair recognizes H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Amendments for the purpose of making a report.

**Report Of
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke (ND), Chairman**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIERKE: Mr. Commander, Delegates to the Seventy-Second Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990.

The Committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 9:00 A.M., Sunday, August 26, 1990, at the Indianapolis Convention Center, Room 226. Committee Liaison Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. called the roll and announced that 47 members of the Constitutional Amendments Committee were present. The following report was agreed upon by the members and submitted to this Convention.

The meeting was opened by Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. (MD), who acted as temporary chairman. He stated a quorum was present and proceeded to the first order of business which was the election of a permanent chairman and secretary. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke (ND) was elected Chairman and Coleman Nolan (Okla.), was duly elected Secretary, thereupon they assumed their respective places.

Copies of all the Resolutions, the Report of the Standing Committee, and copies of the National Constitution and By-Laws as revised August 26, 1987, were made available to all members of the Committee.

The Chair called upon Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., National Judge Advocate, to give a summary background report on the resolutions to the Committee, which was done.

A motion was made by John A. Barnaba (NY), and duly seconded that all members of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws who were present at the meeting be seated with voice but no vote. The motion was carried by the members.

The Chair stated that the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws was available for all members of the Committee and therefore, would not be read.

The Chair then stated, based upon the National Judge Advocate's report to the Committee with regards to the requirements for consideration of resolutions to amend, he would rule out of order those resolutions which did not meet those requirements.

Discussion followed with regard to the impropriety of a Department submitting two resolutions which on their face were inconsistent. This discussion pertained to Resolution No. 5 and Resolution No. 6 (Neb.) and Resolution No. 108 and Resolution No. 109 (Ohio). Based on the advice of the National Judge Advocate that inconsistent resolutions submitted were not in accord with *Robert's Rule of Order*, the Chair ruled the aforementioned resolutions out of order on the basis of their inconsistency. The Chair also ruled out of order Resolution No. 28 (La.) as it failed to provide for a change of Title 36 USC, Sec. 45.

The Chair ruled Resolution No. 431 (3rd Dist., Dept. of Iowa) out of order and not properly before the Committee as a resolution must come before the Committee from a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, National Executive Committee, any outlying and unaffiliated post, or any convention standing or special committee.

The Chairman also advised the Committee that Resolution Nos. 457 (ME), 465 (CA), 479 (Alaska) and 554 (IL) were received too late, and on that basis were ruled out of order.

A motion was made by Leon Reed (Ark.), and duly seconded by Lydia Pickup (Wash.) that Resolution No. 1 be adopted. The motion to adopt Resolution No. 1 was passed by a roll call vote of 45-2. The motion was carried by the required 2/3 majority and so ordered.

The Chairman then called for a motion to consolidate Resolution No. 2 (NJ), 23 (Mass.), 31 (SD), 82 (Tenn.), 121 (Texas), 137 (Wis.), 185 (Pa), 195 (NY), 255 (GA), and 366 (Colo.) with Resolution No. 1 and have the adoption of the same as consolidated therewith. Keith Truax (Calif.) made the motion, and it was seconded by Martin Saidel (NJ). The motion was carried and so ordered.

A motion was then made by Edwin J. Dentz (Va.) and seconded by Leon Reed (Ark.) that resolutions considered as supporting the eligibility change reflected in Resolution No. 1 be received and filed, and that Resolution No. 1 be forwarded in a form which will reflect the support of the Departments set forth in such resolutions. These resolutions are: 67 (Ala.), 68 (Fla.), 70 (ND), 81 (NC), 87 (Mont.), 110 (NM), 112 (Mex.), 114 (Wyo.), 120 (Minn.), 148 (Kan.), 194 (W.V.), 254 (N.H.), 257 (Ark.), 261 (Ida.), 282 (Vt.), 289 (Md.), 381 (Ind.), 388 (Mo.), 432 (Va.), and 452 (Mich.) The motion was carried.

The Chair asked for a motion that the Chairman and Secretary be permitted to sign the Report to the Convention on behalf of the members of the Committee. Thomas Miller (Fla.) made the motion, and it was seconded by John P. Comer (Mass.). The motion was carried.

A motion to recess, subject to the call of the Chairman, was made by Lewis E. McCray (Ala.) and seconded by E. Roy Stone, Jr. (SC). The Chairman then thanked the Committee for its cooperation and productive meeting. The meeting was then declared in recess pending a call from the Chairman to the Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIERKE: In essence, what the bottom line of this report is, that Resolution No. 1 calls for the change in eligibility dates.

I am going to read that resolution.

There were 10 other resolutions that were found to be in order, which were identical, and 20 others which were in support of it, although they did not recite the dates.

They in essence supported Resolution No. 1.

I will now then proceed to read Resolution No. 1 which contains the changes that are being proposed:

Resolution No. 1 (Consolidated with Resolution Nos. 2 (NJ), 23 (Mass.), 31 (SD), 82 (Tenn.), 121 (Texas), 137 (Wisc.), 185 (Pa.), 195 (NY), 255 (GA), and 366 (Colo.)

(Endorsing Resolutions: 67 (Ala.), 68 (Fla.), 70 (ND), 81 (NC), 87 (Mont.), 110 (NM), 112 (Mex.), 114 (Wy.), 120 (Minn.), 148 (Kan.), 194 (WV), 254 (NH), 257 (Ark.), 261 (Ida.), 282 (VT), 289 (Md.), 381 (Ind.), 388 (Mo.), 432 (Va.), and 452 (Mich.)

Subject: Change In Eligibility Dates For Membership In The American Legion

(Origin—National Resolution Committee, Res. No. 28, May, 1990)

WHEREAS, The eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion are determined by the Congress of the United States of America by the establishment of specific dates during which the United States of America was involved in a war, declared or undeclared, or other hostilities; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services of the United States of America were called upon to defend the principles of democracy and justice in all parts of the world, including Lebanon and Granada beginning August 24, 1982, to and including July 31, 1984; and,

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services of the United States of America were called upon to defend the principles of democracy and justice in all parts of the world including Panama, liberated from a classic dictator December 20, 1989, to and including January 31, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Service of the United States of America serving during the aforementioned dates may have prevented a period of tension or armed stalemate from developing into an actual war, and having protected American citizens (preventing a mass hostage situation) and put an end to a massive drug operation, threat to the Panama Canal and danger to the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, No action was taken prior to this time by The American Legion to petition Congress to change the eligibility dates for those members of the Armed Services who were ready, willing and able and did in fact serve honorably during the aforementioned periods of time; and

WHEREAS, The Membership Eligibility Study Committee, commonly known as the Godwin Committee, recommended that The American Legion extend its eligibility for membership to the period of August 24, 1982, to and including July 31, 1984 (the period of time the presence of American troops in or off shore Lebanon and the operation in Granada) and the National Executive Committee determined that the time was not ripe for such change at its meeting in May, 1984; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee in its May 2-3, 1990 meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana came to the belief that the circumstances have changed in the world and that the conduct of war may very well have changed; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee acted upon this belief at its meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 2-3, 1990 by recommending to the National Convention that the time has now come to extend its eligibility for membership in The American Legion to the periods from August 24, 1982, to and including July 31, 1984, and December 20, 1989, to and including January 31, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion in National Convention now believes that circumstances have changed in the world and that the conduct of war may very well have changed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the National Legislative Commission be requested to petition to Congress of the United States to further amend Section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate The American Legion," Public Law No. 47, 66th Congress, approved September 16, 1919 (c. 59, Sec. 5, 41 Stat. 285; October 29, 1942, c. 633, Sec. 2, 56 Stat. 1012; July 9, 1946 c. 546, 60 Stat. 524; December 28, 1950, c. 1177, 64 Stat. 1122; July 26, 1955, c. 386, Sec. 2, 69 Stat. 380; September 1, 1966, Public Law 89-550, Sec. 2, 80 Stat. 372; December 27, 1974, Public Law 93-557, 88 Stat. 1792; August 17, 1978, Public Law 95-346, 92 Stat. 485; December 21, 1979, Public Law 96-155, 93 Stat. 1165, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45, as amended), to read when amended as follows:

"Section 5. No person shall be a member of this corporation unless he has served in the naval or military services of the United States at some time during any of the following

periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; all dates inclusive, or who being a citizen of the United States at the time of entry therein, served in the military or naval service of any of the governments associated with the United States during said wars or hostilities; provided, however, That such person shall have an honorable discharge or separation from such service or continues to serve honorably after any of the aforesaid terminal dates," and be it further

RESOLVED, That when and if the Congress of the United States enacts the above amendment, and the President of the United States shall have approved the same and it becomes law, then the National Constitution of The American Legion shall be deemed amended in conformance therewith, but subject to all consistent limitations and restrictions in the Constitution contained, all as provided for under Article XVII thereof, so that Article IV, Section 1, and Article XIII, Section 2 of the aforesaid National Constitution of The American Legion, shall read as follows:

"Article IV—Eligibility

"Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during any of said periods; provided, separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service."

"Article XIII—Auxiliaries

"Section 2. Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters of members of The American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion."

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIERKE: That is the reading of the Report, as well as the reading of the resolution which is proposed for adoption within the Report.

As a duly authorized Delegate from the Great State of North Dakota to this Convention, I move adoption of the Report of the Constitutional Amendments Committee, as well as adoption of the resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Microphone No. 4.

DELEGATE ARI McCAGNEY, Florida: Mr. Commander, Arnie Matanky, Delegate from the Department of France, seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: You have heard the motion and the second.

Is there any discussion?

DELEGATE ED HOAK, Pennsylvania: Mr. Commander, Ed Hoak, Department Adjutant of the State of Pennsylvania. I rise to support this resolution. It is great that we are going to give the young defenders of our country the right to go into The American Legion. This is great.

It shows respect and honor to those young people and women who served in our Armed Forces.

I ask that the Report be approved.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Any other discussion?

Hearing none, you have heard the motion and you have heard the second. All in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed, no. The ayes have it.

Under Article XV, Section 1 of the Constitution of The American Legion, the Constitution can be amended by a 2/3rds vote.

I, as National Commander declare that the proposed amendment passes by over a 2/3rds vote. Therefore, the Report of the Constitutional Amendment is adopted.

PRESENTATION

DELEGATE JOHN TYSON, Alabama: Commander, Members of this wonderful group, it is appropriate that we give the Commander something to remember the Legion, so that he will never forget us when he runs for President or some other high office.

When he visited the great State of Alabama and visited Mobile, our Post, to honor Richard Henry Hobson, and the people that were lost in the Korean War, and he gave the medal to one of our people. We thought it only appropriate that we give him a copy of the Act that created The American Legion which you just voted to ask Congress to amend once again.

I found this in the archives in the old building across the street, and had copies made. You will note that your name is in the "old country style", because a Marine like yourself, you can put it together.

Joe Konick, our Senior Vice Commander, Post No. 3 is joining with me, and of course; Andrew Cooper, he is not a Member of Post 3, but a Member of Gulf Shores Post 44, and our National Vice Commander, and it is a pleasure to present this to you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much to the Department of Alabama.

I will now call upon Adjutant Bob Spanogle for some announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGL: Just a few announcements.

I want to announce again, about the camera that was lost in the Foreign Relations or Public Relations area, a 35 mm. Canon Sure Shot. The owner of that camera would certainly like the camera back, but more important to him, it contains two rolls of very important family pictures of family reunions, and if you see it, return the film to the Supply Room of the National Headquarters.

We still have the Exhibits in Hall E. There are over 25 exhibitors, plus we have a small bore target range that some of you might like to, you know, see if you are still a sure shot.

The Blood Drive is still continuing. We are a little short of our goal, and let's remember that blood donations have saved many of our comrades, including the life of our National Commander, so let's give some blood.

At the recess of this Convention, the Western States Caucus will be held here on the Convention floor, and I ask the microphones to remain open. Those other Department Commanders and Adjutants, 1990-1991, the Commander request that you meet in Room 124, because we need to discuss Flag strategies for the upcoming Congress, to make sure that they vote right this time.

Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Gentlemen, if you will join me in a salute to the Flag of the United States.

... The delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

... At 3:00 P.M. the Convention recessed, to reconvene the following day, Thursday, August 30, 1990 at 9:00 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, August 30, 1990

... The Convention was called to order by National Commander Miles S. Epling at 9:00 A.M.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Convention will come to order.

... The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

... The Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I would like to call on the National Chaplain, Lynn S. Kearsley of Idaho for the invocation.

INVOCATION

Lynn S. Kearsley, Idaho, National Chaplain

O God, our Eternal Father, for Thee and our country, we have assembled ourselves together under these favorable conditions in the concluding session of this American Legion Convention.

We offer our thanks to Thee for permitting us one more day in our lives and pray we might fulfill our obligations and responsibilities to Thee, and to our fellow men.

We live life with all its ramifications, and pledge ourselves to serve the needs of others. Let Thy influence be with us as we conclude the work of this Convention now through Thy Holy Name, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Convention is now in session

At this time I will call on the National Adjutant, Robert W. Spanogle for announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROBERT SPANOGL: Thank you, Mr. Commander.

The American Legion History is on sale at this 72nd Annual Convention for \$16.95.

It is not my intention to try to sell those, because I think they sell themselves, but there is one great thing at this Convention, the author of that history, Mr. Rumer is with us so he can autograph any that you wish to purchase.

Today Americans across the nation watch television news to learn of the latest developments in the Middle East.

Sunday night, millions of Americans learned of our support for our troops in the Middle East, and our dedication to protecting the United States Flag. This exposure came on the ABC Sunday evening network news, and I thought you would like to see the report and hear about what ABC had to say about The American Legion and our involvement.

... At this time a video was shown.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time, I would like to introduce a leader, not only for the great State of Indiana, but for our nation as well.

He was born right here in Indianapolis, graduated from Shortridge High School and then Denison University in Ohio.

He continued his studies of economics, politics and philosophy as a Rhodes Scholar at Pembroke College, Oxford University before entering the United States Navy. One of his duties during his Navy service was as Intelligence Briefer for Admiral Arleigh Burke, the Chief of Naval Operations.

In 1964, he ran for and was elected to the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners. Later he served two terms as Indianapolis' Mayor.

Currently in his third term, he was first elected to the United States Senate in 1976. He is the Former Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and is co-Chairman of the Senate Arms Control Observer Group monitoring United States-Soviet arms control negotiations.

Excellence in education is a long-standing interest of the Senator. He is a Trustee of his alma mater, Denison University and Vice Chairman of the Board, and former instructor at the University of Indianapolis.

Through his efforts, he has established a scholarship fund for Indiana's Outstanding Minority Students planning to attend college in the State.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Senator Richard Lugar, United States Senator from Indiana, a good friend of The American Legion. Dick Lugar.

THE HONORABLE RICHARD G. LUGAR
United States Senator
State of Indiana

Thank you very much, Commander, for your welcome. And in turn, I join Governor Bayh, and my colleagues, Senator Coats and others here who have welcomed this great Convention to Indianapolis.

This is a city that reveres patriotism. It is a city that has many memories of great service to our country by Veterans. It is proud to be the Headquarters of The American Legion.

My boyhood was one in which we saw the development of so much leadership in this community from The American Legion. I was most grateful as Mayor of this city for eight years to work closely with both the National and the State officials who made such a difference in the quality of life in our city.

I come to you today, in addition to welcoming you, to speak to you candidly about the state of our nation, and specifically, the crisis that lies before us.

It was my privilege last evening to be invited by President Bush to join him in the private dining room of the White House, where he had asked nine other members of the House and Senate, who are friends, and whom he can trust, to discuss the Mideast crisis that is so much on my mind and heart, and I am certain it is on yours.

I've simply come today to say that I believe that this is a crisis of unparalleled proportions to the security of our country and the peace in the world.

And I come also proud to be an American, because an American President, George Bush, was the one who called up everyone all over the world. It was not Gorbachev, it was not Mitterrand of France, or even Mrs. Thatcher of Great Britain when the invasion of Kuwait occurred, Kuwait's invasion, and the threats to the Saudi Arabians, and the other Mideast countries were eminent. It was the United States of America that took the lead.

It was George Bush who made the calls. I make that point so explicit, because there has been some school of thought which says the United States of America is one of many great powers in the world, one of a number of economic authorities, a nation that plays its part, but one of several who would take charge in the event there was a crisis in the world.

But the facts are, ladies and gentlemen, there is one only super power in this world presently, and that is the United States of America.

When the chips were down, we rose to it. In my judgment, the President has acted with speed, efficiency and accuracy of insight in a meeting with approximately 170 Members

of the House and Senate on Tuesday, and without exception, each Republican and each Democrat in a bi-partisan way came up on the White House lawn or wherever they saw the press and said, George Bush has handled this situation as perfectly as any Chief Executive could have handled this difficult situation. And we are for him; we are behind him, we are behind the policies of the United States of America.

Now those policies which the President enumerated again to us, and which the distinguished General, I have no doubt, Powell will enumerate today, boil down to the fact that we have two basic ideas out in the middle east:

One is to deter aggression, to make certain that Iraq does not take over the Saudis or any other neighboring nations or have designs on countries farther afield.

That in itself is a very crucial undertaking.

There is a lot of bravado about our troops over in Saudi Arabia and how clearly the Iraqis wouldn't dare attack at this point, how, literally, they have been outflanked, and there is no possibility of danger for our troops.

Let me just say right candidly, we are some distance from the point in which we have a preponderance of forces, and which we would be certain of repelling a land based attack by the Iraqis.

As of the moment, the hard packed desert sands in Saudi Arabia would make it possible for Iraqi tanks to proceed south at 55 miles an hour, and reach the oil fields of Saudi Arabia in less than four hours' time.

They have the tanks there, and they have the mass of 100,000 troops, and we are told, close to that number in fairly close order just behind. They are still there. They haven't left. We do not have those numbers.

In due course, we may have numbers that approximate that, and we may have heavy tanks as opposed to simply the light tanks that we now have there.

In due course, we may have a preponderance of air power as aircraft move up, as we have proper maps.

We approached Saudi Arabia without knowing precisely where a good many things were located. We are still in the process of photo reconnaissance and mapping.

Now this is not a time for bravado. It is a time for very careful day-by-day words. And the President has said, we are not going to have a press release every day on how many people arrive in Saudi Arabia and in what sequence the tanks and the armored carriers and the various aircraft arrive. That is a very sensitive matter, and it is very important that they arrive soon for the commanders in the field, and every day gives them a little bit more security.

But the deterrents function is still a very tough mission all by itself.

Now the second mission is the interdiction of all supplies coming into Iraq, and clearly, of all exports going out of that country.

We are indebted to the Saudis and the Turks for shutting off the oil pipelines. They have stopped oil getting out of the country.

We are indebted to a number of countries who we have enlisted to help in the interdiction of the sea lanes. And the President is now armed with the U.N. resolution which gives the United States and other nations the right to use force to stop those shipments. We may be tested in that regard very soon.

At that point, we have not been, but the President, I think, has informed all of us that we can anticipate such a test, and it will be something more than a shot across the bow in the event we have that kind of confrontation at sea.

Now we believe that the total strangulation of the Iraqi will take effect, but we have no idea in what time frame, how many weeks, and how many months, and clearly that is a major factor right now in the hopes that Saddam Hussein will recalculate, withdraw his forces from Kuwait, and restore that country as an independent nation again.

The United Nations' resolution that we are backing with our forces says there will not be gains from aggression. And that is a very important principle of international law to lay down and maintain. And Americans are doing that in great numbers at this moment.

During our conversation with the President last night during dinner, he received a telephone call from Prime Minister Kaifu of Japan, and I mention that, because we are now

entering a very critical phase—burden sharing, on how to pay for this, and specifically what should be the contribution of the Japanese, of the German people, of the English, the French, as well as those in the middle east who have Kuwait at stake.

The President and his people have set up literally an enormous, united fund concept, and the details of this have not been made public. Sketches are in the press this morning that Prime Minister Kaifu has indicated to the President that he would make an announcement in Japan that Japan will make a very substantial cash contribution as an up front support of what is occurring there, and a monthly situation of maintenance of forces, and this will be asked of all of our friends. And it is a very important aspect.

The President of the United States is leading the free world. But we want all the free world with us in this endeavor, because there are risks, and those risks are spread to the extent that we have financial and military components that back us up.

Let me just make these comments about where these things stand, as I see it.

We must be successful in this endeavor, and success is still to be defined. The President has indicated that clearly our initial objectives are to deter aggression, to get the Iraqis out of Kuwait, to restore an independent Kuwait, so we are at least where we were before when the conflict began to stabilize energy resources in the Middle East, and around the world. And to that end, the President told us last evening, that over half of the oil that has been lost due to Iraq-Kuwait embargo situation has been restored to the world's flow.

The Saudis will pump substantially more. Commitments have been received from other nations.

The President and Secretary Baker, and National Security Advisor Scowcroft who joined us last night are of the opinion that we will be able to get additional oil so that the world's supply will be stabilized, and the price hikes that we have seen in speculation in recent weeks will be diminished, will finally come back, at least to a regular flow, even as this crisis proceeds.

But if we were not successful, then Iraq would have the ability to influence not only its own oil supply and that of Kuwait annexed by Iraq, but clearly they would have total control over the Saudi flow, over the Arab Emirates, over half the supply of the world.

I make this point, because to say this is a potential conflict over the price of oil, and the price of oil is not worth it. The President has not said this. This is helping them by critics, I presume, or by standards of the project. The fact is, that we are going to stabilize the oil picture under presidential leadership. But if we had not entered into this situation, and Iraq had gained control of oil, it would not only have been price, but availability of oil.

Iraq would have been put in a position to choke the throats of countries that were perceived as enemies. Iraq would have been in a position to use the oil weapon to blackmail other nations to give it components to build up its nuclear war capability.

Iraq would have been in a position to get components to build up further its chemical warfare capability. We are talking about Saddam Hussein of Iraq, we are talking not only about a dictator in his own country, but a leader who already committed aggression against Iran, fought a war of over eight years, sacrificed hundreds of thousands of his countrymen in this war, which did not turn out very well—all things considered—simply threw away all the benefits of the war in the very early days of his current crisis to the consternation of even veterans of Iraq who had fought and died and every family who had lost about one member.

He is a man who used poison gas on the Iranians and killed them by the thousands in what has been called the poor wars nuclear strike. Anyone who saw the bodies out in the peninsula that was devastated by the Iraqi poison gas attack appreciates that kind of an attack, at least as used against defensive Iran, was just as devastating as a nuclear attack on this peninsula.

He did not react without thought of world consequences or precedent, because he had already used poison gas on the Kurds in his own country, a sect that he found dissident and troublesome. And the chemical warfare plants in Iraq are there. They are, they are dangerous.

The Iraqis have built up a potential for nuclear warfare which bodes even more danger for the worlds as a whole. They have purchased SCUD missiles. There is intelligence debate as to whether or not you can put a warhead on a SCUD missile that will spread chemi-

cal warfare or if they should get into the nuclear stage, nuclear warfare, but in the event Saddam Hussein had been successful in his aggression in choking off the energy situation, there is no doubt in the minds of most world observers, he could have obtained the missiles he needs and the technology to perfect the ones that he has. And that would mean, not only the ability to attack Saudi Arabia, but through missiles, to attack Europe, the Soviet Union, the Far East, in short, to be in a position to terrorize much of the world.

Now the world could have sat there and watched.

Many times historically, the world has appeased aggression. Sometimes people have hoped simply it will go away, that it was very far away, or said it was simply a dispute about the economics of oil, the dispute about aggression and world order and world peace.

The dispute right now is whether the leadership of the United States of America with friends that we are bringing together financially and militarily will be sufficient to stop the aggression, to reverse the aggression. And in my judgement, to take some steps beyond that.

Now it is only my own judgement, but I believe it needs to be said, that Saddam Hussein, in the event he removes his troops from Kuwait would still remain in Iraq in full control of a million people in the armed forces, over 5500 tanks, and still fully in control of the chemical warfare possibilities and the nuclear potential.

And he would be left, American forces, along with those friends that we have enlisted in Saudi Arabia monitoring that situation over an indefinite period of time. That, I believe, ladies and gentlemen, is an untenable position over the long period of time.

I would simply say that at some point, we will need to define our position as assertedly that Saddam Hussein must go from Iraq.

Whether or not Saddam Hussein might go because Iraq decides he would leave and hasten his departure; he might go because he took a look at the objective facts of a military situation, and he decided it was a no win situation; he might go for a number of reasons, along with many as together, the nuclear facilities and chemical warfare facilities. And we cannot come to the conclusion of this chapter, in my judgment, with a nuclear potential and a chemical potential intact. Once again, the Iraqis themselves might decided to destroy those facilities as opposed to having an international force destroy them. Iraqis themselves might reorder their situation, and many of us pray that that will be the outcome.

We will come to a point, to an equation, in my judgment, in which that kind of calculation will have to be made by the Iraqis, despite a lot of bravado on their part, our forces will build up, and on certain dates during the calendar year 1990, we will have an optimal force on the ground and in the air.

It will be apparent to Iraq and to other countries that in any sort of military contest, the United States and its allies would prevail.

There will come a moment of truth. I believe the President's outline of the mission thus far has been excellent and sufficient. The President of the United States has to take a look at the total situation, and he is doing that. And I can say, having visited with him just hours ago, that he is thoroughly engaged with each detail of the military and political diplomatic situation. It is a hands-on presidency with very able people. General Powell, Gene Scowcroft, Jim Baker, Jim Cheney are with him almost all the hours of the day, in which there is any need to converse on each and every nuance, and that is important for the American people to know.

It is for everybody who has ever served in the Armed Forces to know that at the time there is this kind of attention and this kind of experience.

George Bush visited 80 countries in the last eight years serving as our Delegate to the United Nations. He knows these people by name. He is on the phone, and he has lots of sources of information, but ultimately, he will have to bring together all consensus if we are to be involved in military action.

If ultimately Iraq makes a very bad error, and I would parenthetically say, it is a bad error, or you're courting disaster when you begin to hold Americans hostage, the problems there are legion, and if you make an error, and Americans are hurt, or for some reason Saddam Hussein as the strangulation occurs, strikes out, the President of the United States has to be ready and has to mobilize not only our forces but others. There has to be a political will, to pull together as the President has masterfully done with the Soviet Union and

the People's Republic of China, the whole apparatus of countries who have not dealt with us for a long time, but are doing so now, because they see the threat to the world.

I am confident, ladies and gentlemen, that as we are tested, we will be victorious, because we are right, and because likewise, we have the right forces, and because America has built a military force which is truly extraordinary in its ability to meet various crises. So much has been written about why we should have been building down rather than building up. So much has been written about the disproportionate amount of our vast treasury spent on defense. Those voices are fewer, and the attitude now comes to those who stayed the course.

The American Legion was in the forefront in all the difficult budget battles with regard to the events and Veteran's Affairs, and The American Legion will be in the forefront now and in these vital weeks ahead.

It is a time of testing, but we shall not be found wanting.

And I am confident that when the chips are down, the United States of America and its friends are going to establish that aggression does not pay; that the world order is here and under United States leadership. That we may have been a reluctant super power, but we are the only super power and the power to whom all the just and the free of the world repair.

I thank you for your own significant senior advice and patriotism, and for the great support you give to our President on this occasion.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, Senator.

We knew that we had a friend in the Senate when we had you up there, and we appreciate it very much.

PRESENTATION

We of The American Legion want to present to you The American Legion Official History, and thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule to stop by and talk to us and say hello. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: General Powel is on his way, and should be here in just a second, and Peter, if you would, how about playing a little bit of music for us.

... At this time, the delegation was entertained by music by Peter Ole and his organ.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GOETZINGER: We will call on Roger Munson of Ohio, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on National Security for the purpose of making a report.

We will interrupt the report whenever it is necessary.

Report of CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY Roger A. Munson (OH), Chairman

At 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 26, 1990, 250 delegates and alternatives assigned to the Convention Committee on Security met initially in meeting rooms 211 and 212 of the Indiana Convention Center. Mr. Roger A. Munson (Ohio) was elected chairman and Mr. Robert Klipstine (Ohio) was appointed secretary.

The six authorized convention committees (Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs, and Naval Affairs) met in separate meeting rooms. An additional Ad Hoc committee was appointed for general security resolutions which required special attention. In compliance with NEC Resolution 18, a subcommittee on Conservation of Natural Resources was appointed. The following were elected chairmen and secretaries of the convention security committees:

Aerospace Committee Chairman, James E. Starr (MN); Secretary, William A. Lindsay (MT)

Defense Civil Preparedness Committee Chairman, Frank J. D'Amico (NY); Secretary, John Schurrer (WI)

Law and Order Committee Chairman, Dudley Robbins (NC); Secretary, Jack M. Rainey (VA)

Merchant Marine Committee Chairman, Charles Moreland (FL); Secretary, Vernon Hill (WA)

Military Affairs Committee Chairman, Norbert Harmeyer (IA); Secretary, Hal Manson (MT)

Naval Affairs Committee Chairman, John J. Wrenn (MA); Secretary, Stewart R. Kunde (MN)

General Security Ad Hoc Committee Chairman, Wilson R. Timmons (FL); Secretary, David Korth (WI)

Committee on Conservation of Natural Resources Chairman, George Harvey (MI); Secretary, Pat McCreery (WY)

On Sunday afternoon, August 26, 1990, the delegates again assembled in the Indiana Convention Center at 2:00 p.m. for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Security. Reports of all convention committees were read and their recommended action on resolutions considered. A total of 85 resolutions were assigned to the convention committee on security or prepared by the committees to meet problems which were held to be of concern to the American Legion and germane to its principles and objectives.

GENERAL SECURITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

Wilson R. Timmons (FL), Chairman

Because many of the resolutions addressed major defense issues which affected all of the military departments and the future of the United States in the world, a special subcommittee was appointed to consider those resolutions. Wilson R. Timmons (Florida) was elected Chairman. The following is a summary of their action.

Approved Resolutions

Resolution No.: 276 (District of Columbia) Subject: Maintaining America's Strength

WHEREAS, The international potential for superpower conflict has changed markedly with the apparent collapse of the Warsaw Pact, and some U.S. leaders look to an era of peace and a reduction in armed forces spending; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union continues to represent a nuclear threat to the U.S., a threat that could greatly increase should current Soviet domestic instability result in the ascendance of reactionary Soviet leadership; and

WHEREAS, The proliferation of nuclear capability among volatile third-world nations is a growing danger to U.S. security; and

WHEREAS, Maintenance of great power responsibilities and self interest both result in continuing need for U.S. military and naval forces to resolve or prevent regional conflicts; and

WHEREAS, U.S. industrial capability to equip, maintain and modernize strategic and conventional forces, using domestic resources in times of international unrest or of war, must be maintained during the present period of down-structuring of the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Our research, development and production capability to produce state-of-the-art defense materiel now depends heavily on private initiatives resulting from a decade of concentrated defense buildup; and

WHEREAS, Our national rail and highway systems essential to an adequate defense posture suffer the effects of decades of neglect; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government reassess the strengths and weaknesses of U.S. corporate and governmental research, development, production and transportation systems to determine their ability to meet the Nation's continuing need for modern nuclear deterrence and world-wide conventional military and naval presence; and following a thorough reassessment, enact such measures as may be necessary to main-

tain domestic research, development and production capabilities without reliance on uncertain offshore procurement of weapons or resources and act to stimulate defense-related improvements in the Nation's internal transportation system.

Resolution No.: 293 (Maryland) Consolidated with Res. 258 (Idaho); Res. 378 (Colorado) Subject: Maintaining America's Vigilance

WHEREAS, The national security strategy of the United States has been based upon a policy of peace and freedom through strength and such policy has succeeded brilliantly in preserving the peace, particularly in Europe since World War II; and

WHEREAS, Certain elements of the Congress, convinced that the Cold War is over, appear determined to drastically reduce the capabilities of the Armed Forces by 50 percent over the next five years thereby achieving a so-called "peace dividend"; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union is entering an unpredictable transitional period characterized by an economically-flawed system, independence and democratic movements in the Baltic States and Warsaw Pact countries, and intensive ethnic struggles, any or all of which could threaten the fabric of Soviet endeavors as well as US-Soviet relations; and

WHEREAS, Soviet initiatives should not be measured in terms of Soviet intentions but in terms of her capabilities, and the Soviet military remains massive both in terms of troops and weaponry; and

WHEREAS, The United States has entered four major wars in the past century unprepared during times of peace for which her veterans have paid a terrible price in blood and resources; and

WHEREAS, Our current national security strategy seeks, whenever possible in concert with our allies, to: deter aggression that could threaten our security; deal with threats to the security of the United States to include the threat of international terrorism; to improve our strategic stability through equitable and verifiable arms control agreements and maintain our strategic and conventional deterrents; to remain vigilant to Soviet and Third World adventurism; to prevent the transfer of militarily critical technologies especially weapons of mass destruction; and to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as the Congress, to remain ever vigilant to Soviet and Third World adventurism and to maintain viable military and intelligence capabilities so as to support our national security strategy objectives and to protect America's interests in an uncertain world.

Res. No.: 294 (Maryland) Subject: Anti-Satellite Weapons

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has perfected its spy satellite to the extent that they can track U.S. warships protecting shipping in the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have demonstrated the ability to send satellite data directly to warships at sea, rather than passing it through a central processing facility; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have tested and placed in an operational status a "killer satellite" capable of disabling or destroying other intelligence gathering satellites; and

WHEREAS, The United States has only conducted one test of an anti-satellite rocket against an actual satellite; and

WHEREAS, The United States Air Force has been denied funding for additional tests of the U.S. anti-satellite weapon; and

WHEREAS, These additional tests are absolutely necessary to insure the reliability of this system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that it does urge the Congress of the United States to fund research, development, testing and eventual deployment of a capable anti-satellite weapon by the Armed Forces of the United States.

Res. No.: 295 (Maryland) Consolidated with Res. 268 (District of Columbia); Res. 377 (Colorado) Subject: Strategic Defense Initiative

WHEREAS, The U.S. has successfully deterred nuclear attack for 40 years through the threat of retaliation, but new technologies may offer improved deterrence through the possibility of the addition of defense measures against missile attack; and

WHEREAS, A defense designed to intercept missiles, as opposed to a policy of unlimited nuclear retaliation, adheres to the principles of proportionality and discrimination, destroying only enemy nuclear weapons and imposing no harm on innocent, noncombatant life; and

WHEREAS, Even a partially effective strategic defense system would proportionately decrease the effectiveness of Soviet nuclear forces, further contributing to deterrence; and

WHEREAS, Current investment in the Strategic Defense Initiative represents only about 1% of the DOD budget; and

WHEREAS, The Strategic Defense Initiative has compelled the Soviet Union to return to the bargaining table and has spurred concessions from the Soviet Union in arms control negotiations; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has been quietly, but purposefully, developing and deploying elements of their own strategic defense, including anti-ballistic missiles, ground-based lasers and phased-array radars; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. proceed deliberately and resolutely toward the development and deployment of a strategic defense system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That as elements of a strategic defense system, such as ground-based lasers or kinetic kill vehicles, achieve mature development, they should be deployed, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Strategic Defense Initiative should not be relinquished in order to achieve negotiation concessions from the Soviet Union.

Res. No.: 296 (Maryland) Subject: The So-Called Peace Dividend

WHEREAS, Some members of Congress of the United States appear determined to severely reduce the Fiscal Year 1991 Defense budget and subsequent budgets from FY 1992-1997 in light of the perceived declining Soviet threat; and

WHEREAS, These proposed reductions of the United States Defense Establishment are based on the notion of a so-called "peace dividend," espoused in some camps, whereby such defense cuts would be channeled to domestic priorities; and

WHEREAS, In the history of our country, most defense cutbacks have been accompanied by periods of unemployment and recessions; yet never before on the eve of a major military cutback has the military budget represented so small a percentage of the Gross National Product and proposed cutbacks would scarcely show up in the statistics that measure economic strength; and

WHEREAS, The national security objectives of our Armed Forces remain to defend the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic; to deter aggression from conventional and nuclear attack; to combat international terrorism; and to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion go on record as rejecting the notion of a so-called "peace dividend," for our nation's security has been preserved only by the maintenance of a strong and deployable military and the will to employ the military during times of crisis to the nation.

Res. No.: 297 (Maryland) Subject: Foreign Investments In Defense Industries

WHEREAS, In this era of rapidly changing technology the United States must maintain ownership and control of critical defense industries so that U.S. technological secrets can be protected and adequate production facilities can be maintained to meet any national emergency; and

WHEREAS, The generally declining strength of the dollar in the mid-1980s made it very lucrative for foreign entities to purchase U.S. firms, including those involved in national defense production; and

WHEREAS, As of 1986, 3 of the largest 36 foreign business investments in the United States were manufacturers of electronics and semiconductors, both of which are areas of vital importance to maintaining U.S. national security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the U.S. Government should take steps to

ensure that foreign entities are not permitted to own critical U.S. defense industries, especially those involved in the high technology, supersensitive electronics area.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time, we need to interrupt the report to bring in our special guest.

Our next guest this morning has graciously taken time out from his extremely busy schedule as the principal military advisor to the Commander-in-Chief—our President—the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council, to be with us.

His duties are many and complex as the Mid-East situation with Iraq continues to unfold. Trying to maintain stability in the area and ensure the maximum safety of our fighting forces is a demanding task. I know all of us here in this Convention Center wish him the wisdom needed to support our nation's position, and to bring this volatile situation to an honorable speedy conclusion.

The career of this leader began when he graduated from the City College of New York in 1958, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.

He has been a platoon leader, Executive Officer and Commander of a Rifle Company, and served as a Vietnamese Infantry Battalion advisor in late 1962. Later he was selected as a White House fellow and served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Office of the President.

The General served as Commander of the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry in Korea, and the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. Later he served in the "Immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense," and was the Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Prior to his appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he was the Commander of the U.S. Corps in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's show him our support.

Please welcome General Colin Powell.

GENERAL COLIN L. POWELL, USA **Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff**

Thank you very much, Miles, for that very, very kind introduction.

I want to apologize for being a few minutes late. An old infantry man hates to keep anybody waiting. At least you are not waiting out in the sun. I do appreciate the fact that you have been patient and have allowed me to linger a little in Washington to clear up a little business before coming here.

I can't tell you how pleased I am to be with you, my fellow Veterans, today. It allows me to thank you, and through you, all Legionnaires, for the marvelous support you are providing to our Armed Forces. Your support is a source of great strength to every last GI in the ranks. I want you to know how very, very grateful we all are to all of you. We will need that support even more in the future than we have in the past.

Seven months ago when I accepted your invitation to speak today, I thought I would be talking to you about the remarkable era of peace we were entering. Instead, today, my thoughts, as your thoughts, are on the young GI's, your successors, who are on guard in the Middle East. Instead, I am once again reminded that in today's world, hope lives with uncertainty; promise lives with danger, and the new lives with the old.

We have seen freedom break through the barbed wire and concrete walls of a divided Europe, and in the Persian Gulf we have seen tyranny break through the borders of a peaceful neighbor. We have seen the idea of democracy liberate the human spirit and the scourge of aggression enslaved.

Saddam Hussein is the latest in a long line of leaders who rule by fear, who argue by the gun and who live by conquest. Leaders who dismiss reason, the rule of law and basic human values, and leaders who will be stopped. Why? Because they underestimate the resolve, they underestimate the determination and they underestimate the strength of our great nation, America.

But America's strength is only part of the problem that Saddam Hussein faces, for in this struggle we are not alone. Saddam can look north, he can look south, he can look east and

west and the message he hears is the same: Aggression as yours will be stopped by the nations of the world united against tyranny.

Just look at the United Nations. For many years it didn't work; it was a joke. Now, in 1990, it is finally beginning to fulfill the promise of its founders. Five Executive Council resolutions have condemned Iraq. Five resolutions have passed without a dissenting vote. Has this given Saddam Hussein any comfort, the result of his aggression? None whatsoever. Look at the response. From Canada in the north to Australia in the west, a multinational naval force is gathering in the Persian Gulf to enforce the UN's action.

Look at the nations of the Middle East, the Arab League has come to the defense of Saudi Arabia and has taken up the cause of an occupied, yet defiant, Kuwait.

In the deserts of Saudi Arabia, Americans stand side by side with Saudis, Egyptians, Moroccans, Syrians, Brits and many others. This is not a struggle between Moslem and Christian, it's a struggle between those who believe in the rule of the law and those who still in this new era believe in the rule of the gun.

Today, the Secretary General of the United Nations begins a dialogue with Iraq. I hope, we all hope, the world hopes that he convinces Saddam Hussein to accept the judgment of the world community, a judgment that is moral, a judgment that is fair, a judgment that is right.

I cannot predict what Saddam Hussein will do, but I can say this with assurance, America and the world are prepared. I can say to Saddam Hussein, do not dismiss us, do not interpret our interest in peace as weakness. Do not think for one moment that we are coward or coerced by your actions or your threats. We are made of much tougher stuff than that.

The facts of the matter are that he must do what is right. He must return to his borders. He must let the legitimate government return to Kuwait. He must free the hostages, and finally, he must learn that in this new era he has to use the wealth of the Iraqi people for peace and not squander it on war.

But I come to you today not to speak only of Saddam Hussein and the crisis in the Persian Gulf. He will not prevail, and the crisis will pass.

I come to talk to you about America's strength, the strength that we draw from our Constitution, the strength that we draw from our way of life, the strength that we draw from our history of over two centuries. I want to talk to you about our values and our military might, our purpose and our power. For we know that our strength lies not only in the arms we bear, but in the values we cherish. Our values have nurtured and sustained us through many bleak times, times many of you remember, time spent in Europe, in the Pacific and now in the deserts of Arabia.

While our values have nurtured us, our power has protected us. Purpose and power, it's an unbeatable combination, one that fascism could not destroy, one that communism could not defeat, one that has always been ready to meet aggression. My responsibility is to do all that I can in my power to maintain America's military strength, the power that defends our purpose and our principles. It is an enduring need even in these times of revolutionary change. It is a need that all of you here understand. The challenges to our security will change, but the enduring need for a strong America will remain.

This fact, this need to keep ourselves strong, guides all my actions as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. My task is to help Secretary of Defense Chaney, and the President, shape our Armed Forces of today and tomorrow to be responsive to the new era, and get adequate to deal with the old era of the uncertain and the turbulent.

What are the enduring realities that require a strong America? Let me start with our relations with the Soviet Union and the enduring reality of Soviet military power. Some experts think this may be a bit out of date. After all, the Soviets have embarked on a revolutionary program both home and abroad, one that holds the promise of burying forever the cold war that dominated our relations for nearly half a century.

I have met over the last three and a half years, five times with President Gorbachev. I read everything he writes. I watch carefully his speeches, and I believe, based on that experience, that he is absolutely sincere in reforming his nation's way of doing business. I know that in the process of change, I, along with many of you in this Hall, have lost some of our old tried and true buddies; the Iron Curtain is gone; the Warsaw Pact is gone; the Berlin

Wall is gone, nor are these positive changes confined only to our military to military relations with the Soviet Union. The Soviet performance in the United Nations, and in the past couple of weeks, has been commendable, and around the world the Soviets have been working hard to demonstrate that they want to be a contributing constructive member of the world community. If all of this is so, then why do I, as Chairman, still think of enduring defense needs; enduring reality of Soviet military power? It's simply because now and in the future the Soviet Union will remain a military super power.

President Gorbachev wants his country to improve economically. He wants to give his people a better standard of living. He wants to join the technology age of the 21st Century, but he doesn't intend that his country give up its status as a military super power, nor should we expect him to.

A few months ago I was watching television on a Sunday afternoon, and there suddenly on C-Span was a gentleman that we have all gotten to know over the past several years, a Soviet by the name of Gennadi Gerasmoiv, who used to be President Gorbachev's public spokesman, you saw him at the end of all the Summit meetings when he explained in flawless English what went on.

On this occasion, Mr. Gerasmoiv was speaking to the group of American students at a college in England, and he was going on at some length about the problems that they were having in the Soviet Union; how 70 years of experience with Communism had not worked; how they needed a change and how the future would be different, but how difficult things were right now. Then as he concluded his remarks, he said, "But we haven't done everything badly. We have had some success." I leaned forward to listen to what he would describe as success, and his answer was very simple. He said, "We are a military super power. We are a nuclear super power." I will never forget that presentation, and I use it every day to remind myself that now and in the future, regardless of what happens in the Soviet Union, it will remain the only country that can destroy us and our way of life with nuclear weapons in 30 minutes. We must never lose sight of that simple fact. That is why we are continuing the fight for the B2 bomber. That is why we must continue to modernize our land and sea based nuclear systems, and for the promise of the strategic defense initiative, we must continue to work, as the Vice President discussed with you yesterday.

Our enduring military need is to make sure that America is never second best when it comes to strategic nuclear weapons and our survival as a nation.

Another enduring reality that remains constant in this world of revolutionary change lies across the Atlantic Ocean in Europe and in the Middle East. For 40 years we have remained committed across the Atlantic Ocean in Europe. For 40 years our leadership, our determination, our military strength provided the shield behind which freedom and democracy flourished. We won, and the Iron Curtain fell and the Soviets said enough. But we must remain engaged, leading, showing resolve, supporting our allies and friends. This is essential because our friends want us there, because our interests lie there, and because we want no one to mistake our hope for a peaceful world, for weakness or lack of will. It is essential to remain engaged in Europe where our allies look to us for leadership.

As the crisis in the Middle East demonstrates, it is essential to remain engaged across the Atlantic in the Persian Gulf, in the Middle East, to protect our vital interests and those of our friends and allies.

So even as we draw down forces in Europe, we must maintain enough force there to continue to deter and to defend. We must remain able to reinforce rapidly across the Atlantic, even to Europe or to the Middle East as we are doing now, and not with just light forces and paratroopers who can get there quickly, but with the heavy armored forces that you now see arriving in the Persian Gulf. And for our heavy forces to defend our interests, we must be able to deploy them in a timely manner as we are doing now. So now and in the future, we will need the very best strategic air and strategic sea lift that we can afford.

We need maritime forces, the very strongest possible, Navy and Marine forces, and the very best reserve forces to provide us with staying power and critical skills such as those being provided by the selected call-up of Reserves for desert shield.

Another enduring reality now and in the future lies to the west in the Pacific. For many of us the Pacific has meant Korea and Vietnam, because for many of us when we were not defending collective security in Europe, we were fighting long and blood wars in Asia.

Today, the Pacific is home to an economic dynamism that seems unbounded. Today, the nations of the Pacific look to us for partnership, for security, for leadership. We are in the Pacific to stay.

For my final enduring reality, let me turn to the unknown, the uncertain, the crisis that no one predicted would happen. The contingency that nobody had planned for. For operations like Just Cause in Panama, we must have contingency forces, the ones that require the best trained, most ready GI's we have. Forces that are light, mobile, ready to go at a moment's notice to defend our interests.

So I see our defense needs of the future rather clearly. I see it in four categories. Modern strategic nuclear forces to include SDI, to deter and to defend against a nuclear attack on this nation or on our allies.

Secondly, an Atlantic force to be deployed in Europe and the Mediterranean and in the Persian Gulf, with reinforcing forces here in the United States to protect our interests across the Atlantic.

Third, a Pacific force for deployed and backed up by forces in the United States to defend our interests and those of our friends and allies in Asia.

And finally, finally a fast-moving contingency force for the unknown, for the conflict the experts say will never come.

In the months ahead, Secretary Cheney and I will be fighting to structure this force in the right way, and the next three or four months will be very, very critical.

The Congress will soon be back in session and it will be forced to make a judgment about the President's budget that is up for their consideration. We need that congressional decision to be the right one. We need that decision to be one that allows us to move prudently, rather than precipitously, toward a smaller but even better force. What President Bush has asked for in his budget is what America needs for its protection. If we get a decision out of Congress that won't allow for what we believe America needs, a decision that cuts too much too soon out of our Armed Forces, then we will be unable to structure the kind of proud, ready armed forces that our nation is most certainly going to need in the years ahead.

Remember, our Armed Forces are all volunteer forces. All those volunteers are under contract, all are ready to do what is required to serve their country. These are the people who will continue to protect America and her interests around the world. These are the people who believe in America, just as you do. These are the people who are willing to sacrifice and serve, just as you did. If we cut too sharply, if we cut too deeply too soon, we will lose those people. We will break the contracts that we have with each and every one of them. We will destroy the finest military America has ever fielded in a time of peace.

Some of the fine young volunteers you have seen in the desert on television every night, we would be forced to fire when they come home. We can't let that happen.

I want the Congress and the American people to be aware of these facts, to be aware of our needs, to be aware of the reality of today's security environment, and I want you to help me tell that story.

I also want them to know that we in the military, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I, understand that we will get smaller. We can get smaller for the new era we are facing. We will reduce our budget. We know that in the Pentagon and everywhere throughout the Department of Defense, and every Service we must re-examine every program and every organization to insure its relevance to a changing world. But it's a changing, not a changed world. It's a world still full of instability, uncertainty and danger. It's a world where ready armed forces will continue to be essential.

Fifty years ago when Congress, prompted by the war in Europe, began funding our defense buildup after decades of neglect, our Army conducted the largest ever peacetime maneuver in this country, and some of you in this Hall may have been there. When the maneuvers were completed, the Secretary of War called General Marshall and others in who had watched the maneuvers, and asked them to take stock of where we were with respect to the nations re-arming and getting ready for the conflict that clearly was just ahead.

They all agreed that the Armed Services of the United States had come a long way, but much, much more had to be done. Maybe in six months or a year America would stand

ready to defend its interests. The date of that meeting was December 3rd, 1941. Six months suddenly became four days. If there is one lesson we learned then, and I hope we have not forgotten, is that we must always, always have capable and ready Armed Forces for friend and foe alike to see. We owe that to the American people. We owe that to our friends and we owe that to our foes. We owe that to the cause of world peace.

When I began my career 32 years ago I learned the language of communism, cold war, containment. Those words are now becoming history, and good riddance to them. What hasn't changed is our responsibility as the freedom leader of the world. Our responsibility as the free world super power is unchanged.

We have heard it again and again. America cannot be the world's policeman. Yet, as I have learned time and again in the 11 months that I have been Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when there is trouble, when somebody needs a cop, guess who gets called to come restore peace? We do.

In the words of the President, we are in a new era, one full of promise, but events remind us that there is no substitute for American leadership, and American leadership cannot be effective in the absence of America's strength.

You all know that the decision to send soldiers overseas is never an easy one for a President. Our industries have given us the best weapons, but the American people have given us this nation's most precious assets, their sons and daughters, their brothers and sisters, their fathers and mothers. Our success, whether in deterring war or defeating aggression, rests ultimately on the shoulders of these brave men and women.

I visited our deploying troops, and I can't tell you how proud I am of them and how proud you should be of them. You have seen the images on television. I know these young GI's saying goodbye and heading off to the Persian Gulf go with your best wishes and blessings. No one knows more than you what is in their hearts and what is on their minds as they leave. No one knows more than you the sacrifice being made by the brave proud families who will await their return and whom we will take care of while their loved ones are overseas.

The young volunteers in Saudi Arabia and on the ships offshore are just like you were. They are patriotic, they care, they want to do the very best job possible. They know America needs them. They know America's friends need them. They know that American citizens endangered need them. They believe in America. They are the kind of Americans who have always been there when the need arose. These young men and women are your most worthy, worthy successors.

Many years ago when D-Day became etched in the memories of our nation, a young soldier wrote: "We landed on the beach as kids, and left a lot older in some ways. We were proud that we did our job as best we could."

Today we owe it to our troops overseas to do the best we can; to watch over them and their families; to support them with all our hearts and with all our souls to make them as proud of us as we are of them. I know that I can count on The American Legion and its 3,000,000 Legionnaires to do just that.

Thank you all. God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Let me say that I know that we as Americans will never let you down, and I'll tell you, I know this as a personal fact, we couldn't have anybody better sitting as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff right now.

On behalf of The American Legion, General, I would like to present to you The American Legion Official History, and I hope you will display it in your office and read it, and learn more about The American Legion.

GENERAL POWELL: You can bet on it, Miles. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time the Chair would recognize Roger Munson to continue his report.

Res. No.: 298 (Maryland) Subject: Military and Peaceful Use of Space

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has announced a National Space Policy as the result of an inter-agency review which began in August, 1981 and which review included a comprehensive analysis of all segments of the National Space Program; and

WHEREAS, This policy reaffirms the national commitment to the exploration and use

of space in support of our national well-being and establishes the basic goals of the United States policy to strengthen the security of the U.S., maintain U.S. space leadership, obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space, expand U.S. private sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities, promote international cooperative activities in the national interest, and cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the national security of the United States requires the maintenance of space leadership by the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention, assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the Administration and Congress to reaffirm the national commitment to the exploration of space in support of our national security and national well-being and that the United States conduct activities in space necessary to its national security including, but not limited to, such functions as command and control, communication, navigation, environmental monitoring, warning, surveillance and space defense.

Res. No.: 299 (Maryland) Subject: Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence

WHEREAS, Our Command authorities, both military and civilian, require timely, accurate, and unambiguous information to plan military operations and to select alternative courses of action; and

WHEREAS, All Commanders and their staffs must then be assured that the decisions emanating from this information can be clearly and accurately communicated to the forces and weapons systems under their control; and

WHEREAS, Typically these systems consist of an array of sensors, communication links, command and control support facilities, and information processing and display equipment which collectively constitutes a significant combat multiplier; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that C3I systems be provided that maximize the performance of our weapons systems and the operability of our forces in terms of survivability; endurance, inter-operability, and effectiveness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the Administration and Congress to continue to provide the necessary improvements in the area of Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3I).

Res. No.: 379 (Colorado) Subject: Theater Ballistic Missile Defense

WHEREAS, Nations around the world are gaining possession of intermediate range ballistic missiles; and

WHEREAS, Nations, especially in the Middle East, are volatile and unpredictable in the use and abuse of military weaponry; and

WHEREAS, There have been hundreds of theater ballistic missiles used in Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Currently no defense exists nor has a decision been made to develop a capability to defend against theater ballistic missiles before they reach their intended target; and

WHEREAS, Theater ballistic missile defense is a logical prelude to an urgently needed strategic defense system; and the need is obvious, acute, and immediate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Congress be vigorously urged to fund research and development to foster whatever measures are necessary to protect our nation and allies against the growing proliferation of theater ballistic missiles.

The following Resolution was Referred to the Standing Commission on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation:

Res. No.: 563 (Philippines) Subject: Unpaid claims of Filipino war prisoners and Veterans be included in the Republic of Philippine—United States negotiating panel on United States bases negotiations

COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**George Harvey (MI), Chairman****APPROVED RESOLUTIONS****Res. No.: 300 (Maryland) as amended Subject: Nuclear Energy**

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy has contributed greatly to U.S. energy independence, having displaced 4 billion barrels of oil and over \$125 billion in payments to foreign oil producers since the 1973 Arab oil embargo; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. imported almost 50 percent of its oil in the first six months of this calendar year; and

WHEREAS, Oil imports are the largest contributor to the U.S. trade deficit, nearly \$1 billion a week in the first four months of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Turmoil in the Persian Gulf once again is disrupting oil supply and represents a clear danger to national and world security; and

WHEREAS, The United States must have a secure reliable supply of energy to fuel our economy and to protect our national security; and

WHEREAS, A growing supply of electricity is essential to U.S. economic growth, U.S. industry and the general well-being of the American people; and

WHEREAS, The virtues of using a diversity of fuels, including nuclear energy, to produce our electricity are well-recognized; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is a safe, secure domestic resource, whose price and supply are not subject to manipulation by foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is our second-largest source of electricity and provides 20 percent of our electricity supply—safely, reliably and without damage to the environment; and

WHEREAS, Political, financial and institutional obstacles now limit continued expansion of our nuclear electric generating capacity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the Administration, the Congress and state and local governments to work together with industry with all possible dispatch to remove the impediments to continued growth of our nuclear electric capacity, including:

- Assuring the President's National Energy Strategy, now being developed by the Department of Energy, assigns expanded roles to increased energy efficiency and to domestic energy resources, including nuclear energy.

- Modernization of the federal licensing system for nuclear electric power plants, ensuring that the licensing process is predictable and disciplines, ensuring up-front approvals of nuclear plant construction and operation, and encouraging the use of pre-approved, standardized designs.

- Encouraging a new relationship and dialogue between electric utility companies and state agencies that regulate their activities, so that companies and other agencies are encouraged to build new generating capacity using domestic resources like nuclear energy, and so that those companies are permitted a fair return on their investment in new nuclear power plants, and will not be penalized for economic and other conditions over which they have no control.

- Creating a firm and timely schedule to evaluate the Nevada Yucca Mountain site as the nation's first repository for high-level nuclear waste, including strengthening the program's management and organization while preserving the scientific and technical credibility of the program.

- Assisting industry efforts to develop and certify new designs for the next generation of nuclear electric plants.

- Encouraging the Congress and the Department of Energy to take steps to place the government's uranium enrichment enterprise on a more competitive and business-like footing.

Res. No.: 344 (Maryland) Subject: Alternative Energy Sources

WHEREAS, The need for development of alternate sources of energy is critical and vital to America's maintaining competitive advantage in the world economy; and

WHEREAS, Our growing dependence on foreign oil adversely affects the United States and world economies as was discovered during the oil embargo in 1973 and the interruption in the supply of foreign oil during the years of conflict between Iran and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, The United States has the opportunity to take the initiative and lead in developing new and alternate sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing need for creating new employment for the American people and developing new skills especially for our Veteran population, as well as for removing the dangers now attendant to continued use of nuclear power by the development of further safeguards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the Congress and our industrial complexes that it favors legislation or plans for funding of research and development of all alternative sources of energy including the utilization of our coal reserves and our vast supply of natural gas and/or methanol and ethanol so as to ensure that our Nation will never be an economic hostage; and that we can always meet the ever growing competition of Japan and other Far Eastern industrial complexes and the European Common Market; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That our Federal Government be strongly encouraged to substantially expand its incentives to industry, either through tax incentives or through research and development grants, in a greatly expanded effort to develop alternative energy sources, including substitute power and heating supplies.

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

James Starr (MN), Chairman

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.: 88 (Montana) Subject: Procurement of Additional Space Launch Vehicles

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan reaffirmed the national commitment of the exploration and use of space in support of our national well-being and established the basic goals of the United States space policy which are to:

- (1) Strengthen the security of the United States;
- (2) Maintain United States space leadership;
- (3) Obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space;
- (4) Expand United States private-sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities;
- (5) Promote international cooperative activities in the national interest; and
- (6) Cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space for activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, A catastrophic accident involving the Challenger Space Shuttle has highlighted the vulnerability of our reliance on a single space transportation system for all U.S. space access regardless of redundancy and high reliability; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent accidents with the TITAN and DELTA space launch vehicles have placed in serious jeopardy the national security of the United States by creating a backlog of 15 to 20 DOD space missions by 1989; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Administration and Congress be urged to move with immediate dispatch to procure and launch additional Expendable Launch Vehicles beyond current plans to prevent a severe impact on critical DOD space requirements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we procure a replacement Space Shuttle Orbiter so that we can confidently meet our space launch needs and meet the basic goals of our National Space Policy; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress support programs designed to address future space trans-

portation requirements, particularly the need to decrease the cost per pound of placing a payload in orbit and, through funding of research like the National Aero-Space Plane.

Res. No.: 90 (Montana) Subject: Support of The National Space Program

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has announced a National Space Policy as the result of an inter-agency review which began in August, 1981 and which review included a comprehensive analysis of all segments of the National Space Program; and

WHEREAS, This policy reaffirms the national commitment to the exploration and use of space in support of our national well-being and establishes the basic goals of the United States policy to strengthen the security of the U.S., maintain U.S. space leadership, obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space, expand U.S. private sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities, promote international cooperative activities in the national interest, and cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the national security of the United States requires the maintenance of space leadership by the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Administration and Congress to reaffirm the national commitment to the exploration of space in support of our national security and national well-being and that the United States conduct activities in space necessary to its national security including, but not limited to, such functions as command and control, communications, navigation, environmental monitoring, warning, surveillance and space defense.

Res. No.: 179 (Pennsylvania) Subject: Tactical Fighter Forces

WHEREAS, In the era of constrained and reduced funding, the Air Force proposes to reduce its fighter force structure in the fiscal year 1991; and

WHEREAS, The two high priority programs, Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) and the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) are deemed necessary to maintain a technological lead in order to achieve air superiority and the ATF will incorporate low observable technology, supersonic cruise and maneuver and advanced avionics to yield lethality and survivability required to meet future threat systems with the ATF's planned initial operation capability in the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, The AMRAAM is now in low rate production and undergoing an extensive test program with the test program scheduled for completion in time to provide a production decision by the end of the current year; and

WHEREAS, The AMRAAM with improved resistance to electronic counter measures will provide a launch-and-maneuver, multiple-kills-per-engagement capability necessary to combat advanced threats while sustaining minimal losses; and

WHEREAS, Modernization efforts and LANTERN navigation-system has enabled F-15Es and F-16C/Ds to conduct night surface attack interdiction missions; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force desires to procure on hundred and fifty multi-role F-16s in fiscal year 1991 and those aircraft now being procured will enjoy night/under-the-weather attack and all-weather superiority capability; and

WHEREAS, Interim funded programs to modify two hundred and twenty-five A-10s and one hundred and forty-six B-30 F-16s with improvements to enhance their flexibility and capability to conduct battle field air attack; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, urges the Administration and Congress to provide adequate funding for the development and procurement of the ATF and the AMRAAM Programs to provide for continued modernization of ground attack forces including the F-15E and the F-16C/D and the interim programs for the modification of the A-10s and the F-16s.

Res. No.: 180 (Pennsylvania) Consolidated with Res. 380 (Colorado) Subject: C-17 Air-Aircraft

WHEREAS, The operation Just Cause in the handling of the Panamanian question revealed that airlift was the key element in providing for the solution to that problem; and

WHEREAS, The C-17 is vital to modernizing and expanding the United States airlift

capabilities and will assume the responsibility of the United States primary strategic airlift aircraft when fully operational which is a role currently filled by the aging C-141 which is fast approaching the end of its service life; and

WHEREAS, The C-17 offers much lower support costs than either the C-141 or C-5 and combines the advantages of a strategic airlifter range, speed, aerial refueling and payload with those of a tactical airlifter, short field landing and takeoff capability, survivability, maneuverability in the air and on the ground and precise, prompt delivery; and

WHEREAS, Air Force tankers provide the capability for refueling of the aircraft fleet and aerial refueling increases range, loiter times and ordnance capabilities of receiving aircraft—true force multiplication; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force is continuing to re-engine KC-135s and are adding multi-point capabilities, i.e., the capability to refuel more than one aircraft at the same time, to elements of the KC-10 fleet; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the continued modernization and expansion of the nation's airlift capabilities with special attention to the C-17 aircraft and the re-engining of the KC-135 tanker; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the continued funding, accelerated procurement and improvements of the said C-17 aircraft.

Res. No. 181 (Pennsylvania) Subject: Strategic Bomber and Missile Forces

WHEREAS, Global tensions with the happenings in Eastern Europe and the projection of a new international image by the Soviet resolution have reduced the immediate tensions in our dealings with the Soviet Union and the announcements may constitute opportunities for substantial improvements in the United States relations with the Soviet Union and, hopefully for prudent reductions in the United States forces; and

WHEREAS, There is little apparent change in the Soviet military posture to date and the Soviet Union maintains a massive military machine which continues to present a substantial threat especially in light of what appears to be political instability in the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Thus the declared Soviet intentions while being viewed as positive, our defense requirements must be based upon existing and projected Soviet capabilities rather than announced intentions; and

WHEREAS, The Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) are a most responsive if not the most responsive element of the strategic Triad which combine accuracy and high daily alert rates to keep time urgent, hardened, Soviet war fighting capacity and assets at risk; and

WHEREAS, The foundation of our deterrent capabilities is founded in the strategic Triad of manned bombers, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and Sea-Launches Ballistic Missiles (SLBM); and

WHEREAS, The foundation of our ICBM modernization program is a Peacekeeper Missile and full operation capability of the first fifty Peacekeeper Missiles in existing silos was achieved in December, 1988 and continued the development of the rail garrison basing mode is provided in the 1991 Budget with current plans to deploy fifty operational Peacekeepers at seven locations; and

WHEREAS, The development of the Small ICBM is proposed to continue toward an operational deployment in the late 1990's and this missile's survivability and inherent operational flexibility make it the most logical next step in enhancing strategic stability and deterring nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, Bomber modernization through deployment of the B-1B and the B-2 penetrating bombers and the transition of the B-52H force to a stand-off cruise missile roll is proposed to counter existing and projected Soviet air defense improvements with a cruise missile launch from outside the defended areas, B-1Bs penetrating at low altitude and high speed, and B-2s penetrating at high and low altitudes, all of which should severely stress the Soviet air defense system; and

WHEREAS, The final B-1B was delivered ahead of schedule and flight test activities have revealed deficiencies in the basic of the defense avionic system and the Air Force is proceeding with a plan to correct these deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, The bomber counting rule under the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) the B-2 as a penetrating bomber provides the means to assure adequate target coverage as the key to long-term military sufficiency under START; and

WHEREAS, The B-2 Program is now in its flight test stage with unqualified success to date; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion supports the continued development and deployment of the Peacekeeper Missile, the development of the Small ICBM and the bomber modernization, including the correction of the deficiencies of the B-1B in the design of the defensive avionics system and the continued development and delivery of the B-2 Stealth Bomber.

Res. No. 182 (Pennsylvania) Subject: Maintaining Air Force Technological Superiority

WHEREAS, The United States defense strategy based upon deterrence, is intended to ensure that no adversary could ever expect to gain by attacking the United States or its allies; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the United States is a cost effective providing of forces to deter that this has been affordable and a successful strategy for defense for decades; and

WHEREAS, Today's United States Air Force is better manned, equipped and prepared than at any time in our history; and

WHEREAS, If the Air Force is to maintain its sense of readiness to meet any possible threat, it must: (1) Provide an adequate inventory of spares, support equipment, munitions and training programs to ensure this readiness; (2) Improve its existing systems with cost effective modifications and upgrades such as the improvements and modifications to the B-52, the re-engining of the KC-135; (3) Develop new systems when necessary taking advantage of the superior United States technology which will provide new systems when the need clearly requires that technological advantage of our industrial complex, including as examples the F-117A, the B-2, C-17 and Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF); and (4) Maintain technological superiority through a broad based science and technology program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support the Air Force in the development of new, cost effective systems taking full advantage of the United States technological superiority.

Res. No. 183: (Pennsylvania) Subject: Air Force Space Surveillance Systems

WHEREAS, Military space capabilities contribute to the deterrent strategy of the United States in numerous ways where satellite early warning capabilities warning of Soviet space and missile launches, prevent surprise attack and gives the United States time for a measured, appropriate response to Soviet actions; space surveillance systems, track, categorize and assess the capabilities of all space objects; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force Satellite Communications, the Defense Satellite Communications System, and the proposed Milstar ensure effective, rapid communications with U.S. strategic and tactical forces throughout the world; other systems enhance the effectiveness of our forces by providing navigation and environmental monitoring information and space systems contribute to arms control by providing monitoring capabilities that enable the United States to enter into verifiable agreements; and

WHEREAS, Space satellite deployment was delayed in recent years because of the Shuttle and Titan accidents, the Air Force now scheduled recovery launch rates peaking at approximately 22 in this year but being unable to launch all of the backlog of satellites until the year 1992; and

WHEREAS, The Advance Launch System (ALS) has been identified as the United States future national space launch capability with fiscal restrictions requiring a deferment of Air Force action but with technology development continuing under the Advance Launch technology program intending to transfer technology to existing boosters and furnish the basis for future development of a new vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has program management responsibilities for the National

Aero-Space Plans (NASP) as a joint DOD-NASA undertaking program will develop technologies leading to a decision on whether to develop a classic vehicle that would demonstrate the capability of a single-state-to-orbit with horizontal takeoff and landing and long range hypersonic cruise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the Administration and the Congress to provide adequate funding for the continued development and deployment of space surveillance systems and programs including but not limited to the Advance Launch System and the National Aero-Space Plane.

Res. No.: 363 (Maryland) as amended and Consolidated with Res. 269 (District of Columbia) Subject: **Modernize the United States Air Force**

WHEREAS, The free world has learned a very hard lesson; weakness and appeasement lead not to peace, but to war; and

WHEREAS, To keep the peace, the United States should maintain strong deterrent forces seeking equitable and verifiable arms reductions agreements with the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Modernization of our strategic offensive forces was generally deferred during the 1970's; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have modernized their ICBM forces and have also deployed over 40 SS-20 intermediate range nuclear missiles, of which two-thirds can cover all of Europe and the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, To maintain credible deterrence and a stable nuclear balance, the President, in October 1981, directed the U.S. Air Force to undertake the first comprehensive modernization of our strategic forces since they were built in the 1950's and 1960's; and

WHEREAS, Seventeen major studies since 1974 have found, in every case, that airlift requirements far exceed capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Congressionally Mandated Mobility Study (CMMS) has concluded programmed mobility capability could not meet current or project requirements, resulting in the CMMS recommending an Air Force capable of providing a minimum objective of 66 million tons per day (MTM/D) of intertheater airlift capability with one-half of the additional forces outsized capability; and

WHEREAS, The only means available to the ground combat forces to deploy and sustain their power is either by air or water; with airlift being the only means likely to have any significant effect; and

WHEREAS, Due to steady growth in Soviet military power and steady improvement in the combat capabilities of their tactical forces, the USAF needs to continue to modernize and expand its own tactical air force; and

WHEREAS, The highest priority for our general purpose forces is to improve readiness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Since FY 81 the USAF has more than doubled funding for munitions and spare parts and will continue to fund spares and munitions at the highest possible level; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets are producing approximately 1000 modern tactical fighters per year in contrast with our requested 264; and the Soviet tactical and theater air forces consists of over 6,000 fighters, interceptors, fighter bombers, and medium bombers; and

WHEREAS, The first consideration in employment aerospace forces is gaining and maintaining freedom of action to conduct operations against enemy forces; and

WHEREAS, We cannot expect to achieve numerical superiority against Soviet forces, even with the cooperation of allies; and

WHEREAS, We must exploit our current technological leadership to maintain and improve our qualitative advantage in fighter aircraft, engines, weapon systems and missiles; and

WHEREAS, In space, both the Soviets and the U.S. are dependent largely on satellites for warning, communications, and command and control of their forces world-wide; the Soviets have launched four or five times as many satellites over the past decade as the United States and have the world's only operational space weapons system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support:

(1) As a first priority, the USAF's efforts to update strategic modernization with timely acquisition of Peacekeeper missiles, development of the small ICBM and Peacekeeper missiles in rail garrison, and deployment and development of a mixed Strategic Bomber force of B-2's, and Advanced cruise missiles; and

(2) The USAF's greater emphasis and higher priority on global airlift capabilities with deployment and development of the C-17 aircraft at the earliest possible time; and

(3) The USAF's continuing goal to adequately fund readiness items and build toward required sustainability levels; and

(4) The USAF's efforts to improve the effectiveness and quantity of its tactical fighter forces available for air-to-air and air-to-ground combat, continued production of F-15 and F-16 aircraft; and development of the follow on close air support aircraft; development and deployment of the Advanced Tactical Fighter, Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) and the continued production of the Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting System for Night (LANTIRN) weapon system; and

(5) The USAF's continuing effort in support of national priorities in space and the promising Strategic Defense Initiative; and

(6) The USAF's continued work to improve vitally important tactical Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3I), in conjunction with the other Services, particularly the Army and Marine Corps; and

(7) The USAF's close coordination with the other Services to avoid duplicating assigned missions.

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Frank J. D'Amico (NY), Chairman

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.: 91 (Montana) Subject: Federal Oil and Gas Leasing System

WHEREAS, Current Federal oil and gas leasing practices under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 encourages exploration and development and provides a fair return to the public; and

WHEREAS, The present system of oil and gas leasing on federal land allows smaller independent operators and companies an opportunity to compete with major companies for federal leases; and

WHEREAS, Most of the wildcat leasing and exploratory drilling throughout the Nation is done by independent companies; and

WHEREAS, Combined oil and gas make up a large portion of the total production, most of which is produced from federal land leases that are vital to a reliable and continuing fuel supply for transportation and national security; and

WHEREAS, Imports of foreign oil have been increasing at an alarming rate and could reach the 50 percent level within a period of two years; and

WHEREAS, Heavy reliance on foreign oil sources weakens the U.S. economy, undermines national security, eliminates American jobs, and increases the trade deficit; and

WHEREAS, Oil and gas leasing and development is subject to comprehensive environmental regulations and restrictions which dictate a thorough environmental review and analysis of activities with public participation encouraged throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, There is pending in both houses of Congress bills that would amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to further restrict exploration and development on public lands that would add additional environmental and land use restrictions on oil and gas exploration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support the current federal oil and gas leasing system and oppose any legislative changes in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 that would seriously jeopardize this Nation's national security by not being able to supply our petroleum needs in a time of national emergency.

Res. No.: 600 (Committee) Subject: Curtailment of Additional Wilderness Areas

WHEREAS, 729 million acres or 92% of public lands in the United States are located in Western states with 90 million acres already designated as federal wilderness areas. Congress is presently considering designating an additional 120 million acres of public lands to wilderness status which, if added to presently designated wilderness lands, would equal an area with the combined size of California, Nevada, and Utah; and

WHEREAS, The designation of additional wilderness areas appear to vastly exceed discretionary requirements for conservation of wildlife and natural resources so as to adversely impact on our national security interests by denying or severely limiting the military and citizenry access to these areas; by precluding the development of minerals, timber, coal, oil and other energy sources vital to our national security interests during crises or times of emergencies; and thereby reducing our capabilities while placing heavier reliance on the foreign importation of essential resources; and

WHEREAS, These restrictions impact on the ability, ground maneuverability, and overflight rights of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force to include Active Duty, Reserves and State National Guard Forces to conduct essential and realistic combat-oriented training; and such restrictions further deprive the Nation of economic opportunities to effectively compete in the international marketplace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Congress, in conjunction with the Secretary of Interior and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to conduct oversight Congressional and public hearings to evaluate the assurance of public lands and wilderness areas for further diversification as required for the national security interests and economic well-being of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That no additional federal wilderness areas be designated until the potentially negative impact on our national security and economic interests have been completely evaluated for the well-being of the United States and her citizens.

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

Dudley Robbins (NC), Chairman

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS**Res. No.: 89 (Montana) Subject: Constitutional Right to Bear Arms**

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of state and local government to protect their citizens, yet those local governments cannot be held responsible for failing to protect their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Research conducted in 1981 found that in four percent of American households, someone had used a handgun to protect themselves from harm from another person within the previous five years, which amounts to one use every 48 seconds; and

WHEREAS, According to a 1979-1985 study by the National Crime Survey, when a robbery victim does not defend himself, the robber succeeds 88% of the time, and the victim injury rate is 25% and when a victim resists with a gun, the robbery success rate is only 30% and the victim injury rate falls to 17%; and

WHEREAS, A study in 1982-83 by the National Institute of Justice found that two-fifths of prison inmates surveyed decided not to attack a person when they found out that the person was armed; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970's when the Orlando, Florida Police Department trained 2500 women to use guns, the rape incidence fell by 88% and the burglary rate fell by 25%; and

WHEREAS, If a burglar commits a crime at an occupied home, his chances of being shot and going to jail are equal; and

WHEREAS, In a survey of every chief of police and sheriff in the nation by the National Association of Chiefs of Police and the American Federation of Police, 90% of the respondents believed that a ban on handguns would result in more citizens becoming targets of armed violence; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that only one gun owner in 3,000 ever commits a

homicide and that lone killer is generally a person with a record of violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion is opposed to any legislation, ordinance, rule or any other form of regulation which would prevent the law abiding citizens of this nation from exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms including handguns.

MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

Charles F. Moreland (FL), Chairman

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.: 460 (Washington) Subject: Rebuild the Merchant Marine

WHEREAS, The American Legion continues to recognize the urgent need to rebuild the United States privately-owned and operated maritime industry to its former pre-eminence; and

WHEREAS, In 1980 there were approximately 500 ocean-going cargo ships in the active U.S. flag merchant fleet. Today there are about half that number, carrying less than 4% of our total international trade; and

WHEREAS, Since 1978, more than 55 shipyards have ceased operations. A total of 60,000 workers across the country have lost their jobs, and at least 14 ship companies are operating under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy act; and

WHEREAS, Only one shipping line has ordered a container-cargo ship built at any American shipyard since 1984. The last commercial tanker built in the U.S. was in 1985; and

WHEREAS, As long as foreign countries subsidize their yards and the U.S. does not, American ship builders are at a disadvantage because their costs are much higher; and

WHEREAS, The deployability of our military forces depend on a strategic sealift, and requires national priority; and

WHEREAS, Our maritime industry now ranks 10th among the 16 major fleets in the world, while the Soviet Union ranks second; and

WHEREAS, From our experience in WWII, Berlin, Korea, and S.E. Asia, and other hot spots have demonstrated the necessity for a strong and viable transport system overseas to protect U.S. interests, and meet commitments to our allies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the U.S. Government in cooperating with maritime management and labor to rebuild the U.S. merchant marine to its former position as second to none in the world under the Merchant Marine Act of 1970; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge action to modify the Merchant Marine Act of 70 to promote the United States flagging of U.S.-owned ships now under foreign registry.

Res. No.: 598 (Committee) Subject: United States Tall Ship

WHEREAS, The United States Merchant Marine is in a gravely depressed and rapidly declining condition. Our national defense capability is seriously compromised by the lack of U.S. merchant ships and seamen; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to promote a greater recognition of the contributions and sacrifices made on behalf of our country, in peace and in war, by our American merchant seamen; and

WHEREAS, The United States is suffering from a serious trade deficit, and needs to fully develop its export trade potential; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing need to aggressively promote good will throughout the world, promoting a better understanding of the United States; and

WHEREAS, There is good need for American representation at international celebrations and tall ship events; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting, and appropriate, to create a new national symbol for the 1992

Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Celebration which pays tribute to the legacy of Christopher Columbus, by seeking new trade and ambassadorial routes for our future; and

WHEREAS, The United States Tall Ship Foundation is building the United States tall ship to serve our country's ambassadorial, commerce, trade and maritime industry's promotional and educational needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion officially endorse this patriotic project of the United States Tall Ship Foundation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourage the individual Chapters, and members therein, to participate to the fullest extent possible; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion maximize the public relations benefits of participation in the building of the United States Tall Ship, a ship to serve America for the next fifty plus years.

Res. No.: 599 (Committee) Subject: **Merchant Marine Reserve Fleet**

WHEREAS, The Navy has recognized shortage of available hulls for transport, supply support, or forward, on-station stowage of essential materials; and

WHEREAS, Current force, deployment, and mission constraints are the result of inadequate shipping capacity; and

WHEREAS, This shortfall is potentially correctable through employment of inexpensive, proven devices to make a merchant cargo ship efficient in a naval role; and

WHEREAS, The Maritime Administration currently has available in its Merchant Reserve Fleet over 200 merchant ships ideally suited to fulfill this need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Defense Department conduct an assessment of current hulls and that such hulls be identified and preprogrammed for activation and employment in support of the Fleet in case of national emergency.

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Norbert G. Harmeyer (IA), Chairman

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.: 38 (South Dakota) as amended Subject: **Military Education Benefits**

WHEREAS, The current GI Education Bill of Rights provides that under certain circumstances those individuals who are discharged from active service may not be able to utilize their benefits; and

WHEREAS, These individuals are not being properly advised by the military branches relative to the effect an early separation may have on their entitlement to educational benefits; and

WHEREAS, Service in the Armed Forces is a contractual agreement between the particular Military Service and individual service members; and

WHEREAS, Service members are ineligible to receive educational benefits if they serve fewer than 20 continuous months on an enlistment of less than 3 years and 30 months on an enlistment of 3 years or more; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that the Department of Defense implement a program whereby those individuals being separated early from the service be advised in writing, with the signature of the person concerned required, of the possible negative impact on the person's educational benefits of an early separation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges that Congress amend the Public Law to delete the 20-30 month continuous service requirement particularly in light of the anticipated service members who may be involuntarily separated in the near future.

Res. No.: 86 (Tennessee) Subject: **CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA Entitlements**

WHEREAS, Individuals covered under CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA lose this benefit when they become eligible for Medicare; and

WHEREAS, Medicare with minimal supplemental coverage must be paid for by the individual at an annual rate in excess of \$900.00; and

WHEREAS, Medicare and most medicare supplemental insurance do not cover prescription medications; and

WHEREAS, Congress repealed the Medicare catastrophic coverage which would have eventually assisted with the cost of prescription medication; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion supports legislation to amend appropriate USC's to allow continuing CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA entitlement as a supplemental coverage to Medicare.

Res. No.: 92 (Montana) as amended Subject: **Progressive U.S. Armor Improvements**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has been steadily and aggressively gaining the lead over U.S. Armored capabilities both quantitatively and qualitatively in armored warfare over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army has been developing, producing and improving the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and M-1 Tank, the Soviets have developed and are deploying armored systems which are at least a generation ahead of U.S. armored vehicles; and

WHEREAS, The Future Soviet Tank One (FST-1), which is currently in production, and the follow-on FST-2, which is expected to be produced in the mid-1990's, will be fielded with lightweight glass composite or ceramic laminate armor, with reactive armor, which will likely defeat any anti-tank guided missile in the world; and

WHEREAS, To remain competitive with the Soviets in armor/anti-armor, it will be necessary for the U.S. to maintain a steady progression of well-focused technology base programs without extensive delays to permit significant Soviet armor-defeating improvements at least every five years; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army is developing Armor/Anti-Armor and Heavy Force Modernization Plans to address this imbalance in the mid-1990s and beyond, which will integrate new armor modular technologies into a common family of vehicles; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges the Congress to provide adequate funding to support the research and development activities associated with the Army's Armor/Anti-Armor and Heavy Force Modernization Plans to assure timely and successful improvements in U.S. armor lethality, survivability, fightability so as to match or defeat any aggressor capability.

Res. No.: 93 (Montana) Subject: **Former Spouse Protection Act**

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States had determined that Federal law precludes a state court from dividing military pay pursuant to State community laws; and

WHEREAS, The language, structure and history of the Statute clearly states that military pay is the personal entitlement of the retiree; and

WHEREAS, That application of community property principles threatens grave harm to "clear and substantial" Federal interests goals of the military retirement system to serve as an encouragement to the orderly promotion and a competent, fit military force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion support the principle that spouses of military personnel have the right to adequate support, that military pay should only be included in judicial determination of appropriate support on a case-by-case basis and that the Federal legislation to distribute military retired pay as property between a service member and a former spouse should be revoked.

Res. No.: 94 (Montana) Subject: **Selective Service Status and Federal Employment**

WHEREAS, Current law requires all male citizens of the United States reaching the age of 18 to register with the Selective Service System; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of military service are required to present proof of such service when they apply for federal employment, while non-veterans (including registration age males) are not required to produce any documentation pertaining to their Selective Service status; and

WHEREAS, Non-veterans, including potential non-Selective Service registrants may

be considered more desirable candidates for federal employment because their availability is not hampered by pre-employment documentation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that legislation be enacted requiring proof of Selective Service registration by any non-veteran male who applies for federal employment and that standard federal employment forms be modified to accommodate designation of registration status; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That non-Selective Service registrants who have applied for federal employment be removed from consideration until registration has been accomplished.

Res. No.: 219 (Kentucky) Subject: **Dual Receipt of Military Retired Pay and VA Compensation**

WHEREAS, 38 USC 3104, prohibits the payment of retirement pay from the Armed Forces concurrently with VA compensation or pension; and

WHEREAS, Civil Service employees, as well as members of Congress, who retire on longevity may receive their retirement annuity with VA compensation; and

WHEREAS, Armed Forces retirement pay and Civil Service annuity (longevity) is based on duties performed and length of service; and

WHEREAS, Career Civil Service employees and career members of the Armed Forces are both employed by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that it is inequitable to authorize one group of Federal employees to receive both VA compensation and retirement pay, and prohibit another group from receiving both; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC 3104, so as to remove the restriction against the receipt of Armed Forces retired pay, due to length of service, concurrently with VA compensation.

Res. No.: 273 (District of Columbia) Subject: **Maintain the Combat Readiness of the U.S. Army**

WHEREAS, U.S. national strategy has been based upon a policy of peace and freedom through strength and such policy has succeeded in preserving the peace, particularly in Europe, since World War II; and

WHEREAS, Although the Soviet Union is entering an unpredictable transition period characterized by an economically flawed system and movements toward independence and democracy; Soviet initiatives should not be measured in terms of perceived intentions but in terms of capabilities, and the Soviet military force remains massive both in troops and weapons; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military force remains the ultimate guarantor of peace and prosperity in the world and any reduction in the U.S. Army should be based on well-considered plans and carried out over a sufficiently long period of years to minimize deterioration of capability and readiness, at the same time keeping faith with those capable people who volunteered for careers in the service; and

WHEREAS, In discussing the FY 1991 Budget with the Congress, the Chief of Staff of the Army stated that the Army of 1995 must be a smaller, but highly capable force; forward deployed in sufficient strength to provide a credible deterrent and to demonstrate unambiguous commitment and resolve to its allies; globally oriented; and clearly able to execute worldwide contingency operations. It must have an appropriate mix of forces, be adequately modernized and fully trained, and be ready to respond on short notice—an Army that is versatile, deployable, and lethal; an Army to protect the survival, freedom and prosperity of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support:

(1) The Army plan for a highly capable, modernized, fully trained force to perform the following strategic roles in protecting United States interests:

(a) Provide forward deployed ground forces for deterrence, sustained land combat, and conflict termination in areas of vital interest;

(b) Maintain combat-ready ground forces—heavy, light and special operations—in the United States for immediate contingencies worldwide;

(c) Maintain forces in the United States able to reinforce forward-deployed and contingency forces;

(d) Participate in evaluation/protection of American citizens, disaster relief, emergency assistance to civil authorities, and interdiction of illicit drug traffic;

(e) Provide support to allied and friendly nations through peacekeeping, security assistance, nation building and Army-to-Army initiatives; and

(2) The major procurement items in the Army budget, including completing the Abrams Tank (M1A1 and M1A2); continuing the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the Apache Attack Helicopter, the TOW 2 missile, the Patriot air defense missile, the Stinger missile, the Multiple Launch Rocket System, the Black Hawk tactical lift helicopter, the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, the Army Tactical Missile System and the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle; and beginning procurement on the Air Defense Heavy System, and continue development of the Army Light Helicopter program.

Res. No.: 301 (Maryland) Consolidated with **Res. 69** (Florida) Subject: **CHAMPUS Availability**

WHEREAS, The federal government established CHAMPUS to assist military personnel and their dependents defray the cost of medical care; and

WHEREAS, The cost of medical care continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, Military retirees and their dependents are covered by CHAMPUS until age 65; and

WHEREAS, At age 65 military retirees and their dependents are no longer covered by CHAMPUS, but are then covered by Medicare; and

WHEREAS, Most retirees are on a fixed income; and

WHEREAS, Medicare covers much less than CHAMPUS and must be supplemented by additional insurance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion supports legislation for the continuation of CHAMPUS to all eligible veterans and their dependents after the age of 65.

Res. No.: 302 (Maryland) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 263** (District of Columbia) Subject: **Military Medical Care**

WHEREAS, Department of Defense Military installations provide medication and medical services to active duty personnel, their dependents and military retirees and their dependents as recommended by military or private doctors; and

WHEREAS, Medical support for these beneficiaries is woefully inadequate; and

WHEREAS, Some installations have eliminated certain medications for retirees and their dependents while continuing the same medication to active duty personnel based on funding considerations; and

WHEREAS, A nonavailability statement authorizes the beneficiary to utilize local civilian medical facilities and claim remuneration for costs incurred by using the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); and

WHEREAS, CHAMPUS limitations place a heavy burden on service personnel, and many must accept heavy debts to secure the medical care their families need; and

WHEREAS, CHAMPUS has three major differences from commercial medical insurance programs:

(1) CHAMPUS limits professional service payments to pay in full what eight out of ten providers in the area charge for those procedures and obtaining current information used to establish present rates is very difficult.

(2) CHAMPUS requires a deductible of \$50.00 to \$100.00.

(3) CHAMPUS requires 20 to 25 percent coinsurance to be borne by the recipient.

CHAMPUS provides for a \$1,000 annual family limit on active duty dependent cost sharing for CHAMPUS benefit allowed charges, and a \$10,000 limit for retirees, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, The net effect of these CHAMPUS regulations is to cause extended medical care to bankrupt many military families, while others decline to seek treatment because of these regulations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indian-

apolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urges Congressional action to focus attention by the Department of Defense and its military departments on the needs of military families and retirees stationed throughout the United States and around the world; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress should fully fund Armed Forces medical facilities to the extent necessary to meet the U.S. Government responsibility to provide adequate medical care to active duty service people, their dependents, and military retirees and their dependents.

Res. No.: 303 (Maryland) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 266** (District of Columbia); and **Res. 463** (Washington) Subject: **State Defense Forces**

WHEREAS, The American Legion as an organization of war veterans supports efforts to meet National and civilian defense needs in peacetime and wartime; and

WHEREAS, The National Guard of the various states have dual federal and state missions in peacetime which become exclusively federal missions in wartime; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States (32 U.S.C. 109) has recognized the need for states to organize and maintain State Defense Forces in addition to the National Guard in peacetime to maintain public safety and order, to protect essential resources and facilities, to combat terrorism, and to perform those state missions independently when the National Guard is federalized or mobilized and not available to the state; and

WHEREAS, Currently 24 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico maintain State Defense Forces under the command and control of the various state Adjutants General but these states are limited in their ability to properly train and support these patriotic volunteers because of an inability to obtain federal support; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in the Congress of the United States to provide federal support for the states to organize, equip, train and maintain State Defense Forces at little or no cost to the federal government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion shall support legislation before the Congress of the United States to provide federal support for the State Defense Forces as being in the national interest.

Res. No.: 304 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Military Pay and Quality of Life**

WHEREAS, People are the foundation of our Nation's fighting force; and

WHEREAS, Without highly qualified, dedicated men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrent force necessary for this National to remain at peace; and

WHEREAS, Military pay must be reasonably comparable to pay available in the private sector if the Armed Services hope to compete for quality volunteers and retain an experienced military force for the long term; and

WHEREAS, While pay raises have kept pace with inflation, they have not maintained comparable wage growth with the private sector; and

WHEREAS, We may, in the long run, see an exodus of those with highly transferable skills and find it extremely difficult to recruit quality personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that Congress must restore and maintain military pay comparability; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress must strive to improve those "quality of life" elements which they can influence, such as: improving Aviation Career Incentive Pay, improving medical and dental services, maintaining commissary and exchange store privileges, preserving an attractive retirement system, and maintaining favorable tax treatment of allowances.

Res. No.: 305 (Maryland) Consolidated with **Res. 270** (District of Columbia) Subject: **Support Modernizing the United States Land Forces of the Army and Marine Corps**

WHEREAS, Maintaining the nation's security requires our forces to be capable of protecting U.S. interests world-wide; and

WHEREAS, The range of possible contingencies place particularly difficult demands on the land forces—the Army and the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Our land forces must be capable of defeating the heavily armored, tacti-

cally mobile force of the Soviet Union; of coming to the assistance of friendly states threatened by modern, well-equipped forces; and at the other extreme, of providing rapidly deployable forces for "show of force" missions or for operations against less sophisticated forces in difficult terrain; and

WHEREAS, For our land forces to provide the capabilities we need, they must be: structured properly, able to respond quickly, capable of sustained combat, and provided with modern weaponry and equipment; and

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Years 1992-1997 program should continue with the overdue modernization of land forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the Administration and Congress to support the Army and Marine Corps efforts of modernizing the United States land forces by providing necessary authorization and funding.

Res. No.: 306 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Military Commissary Operations**

WHEREAS, The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control had previously recommended that the Department of Defense terminate the operation of the commissaries in the continental United States except in areas where adequate commercial food stores are not available; and

WHEREAS, The DOD Third Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (1976) indicated that the value perceived by the service member substantially outweighs the government costs; therefore, commissaries provide physic income that far exceeds the cost; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Chiefs of Staff on January 13, 1983, recommended that the President resist any attempt to alter military retirement to include benefits; and

WHEREAS, Reduced commissary support would undermine the morale of married careerists which is a key element of military preparedness, it would also be devastating to (1) junior enlisted families; (2) widows; and (3) the 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans eligible for commissary patronage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we strongly support retention of the military commissary system and urge the Administration and the Congress to provide necessary authorization and funding to allow the system to be preserved as an institutional support for our active duty military, military retirees, 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans, widows authorized commissary privileges and other authorized patrons.

Res. No.: 307 (Maryland) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 262** (District of Columbia) Subject: **Total Force Policy**

WHEREAS, Under the Total Force Policy, Reserve Components are a key element of the total force; and

WHEREAS, In the event of war, Reserve Components would deploy alongside Active Component units, their missions demanding that they be as capable and ready as their active-duty counterparts; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that our Reserve Components be equipped with the latest weapon systems on a "first-to-fight, first to be equipped" basis if they are to be effective; and

WHEREAS, Current program call for increased manning, training and readiness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that Congress be called upon to authorize and fund the most modern weapons systems for use by the Reserve Components; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to authorize and fund the Reserve Components so as to provide sufficient recruiting and retention incentives to man units at the authorized levels in order that they may accomplish their missions in the event of war.

Res. No.: 309 (Maryland) Consolidated with **Res. 264** (District of Columbia); and **Res. 384** (Indiana) Subject: **Military Retirement System (COLA)**

WHEREAS, The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act eliminated cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for retired military and civilian personnel for Fiscal 1986; and

WHEREAS, The Administration's budget request for Fiscal 1991 recommended no cost-of-living adjustments (COLA); and

WHEREAS, Since 1958, the Congress has slowly developed "an automatic mechanism, which would, in the last analysis, guarantee every military retired member that the purchasing power of retired pay to which he was entitled at the time of retirement would not, at any time in the future, be eroded by subsequent increases in consumer prices" (HASC Committee Print #17, Title 27, U.S. Code, May 1982); and

WHEREAS, Since these reductions in the frequency of the adjustment, a series of delays and the implementation of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction Act have not supported this guarantee; and

WHEREAS, If the no-COLA provision remains in effect for the duration of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill (5 years), the real value of retired pay would shrink some 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, The perceptions produced by the continued attacks on military retirement pay have created some disturbing trends in retention rates of retirement-eligible personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that Congress preserve the guarantee of purchasing power for retired military and civilian personnel by insuring that future cost-of-living adjustments are consistent with inflation factors.

Res. No.: 310 (Maryland) Consolidated with **Res. 265** (District of Columbia) Subject: **Selective Service System**

WHEREAS, The defense of the nation requires the maintenance of a system of military manpower procurement equal to meeting the needs of present and foreseeable defense commitments as well as primary mobilization demands; and

WHEREAS, The Selective Service System has proven itself to be fully effective in meeting the vital national needs during all wars this nation has been engaged in during this century, as well as the requirements of the peacetime Army since World War II until 1973; and

WHEREAS, The current registration program has been highly successful; and

WHEREAS, A viable Selective Service System with registration is the minimum to meet the necessary mobilization requirements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support: (1) the maintenance of the Selective Service System as a viable preparedness measure; (2) the continuation of the current registration program; (3) local boards in a registrant's own community having the responsibility for determining his availability and the issuance of induction orders rather than depend on an untried, centralized computer system; and (4) the training of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower Mobilization Procedures with the capability to rapidly expand forces by resuming inductions should world conditions require Congress to return to the draft; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the President and the Congress be urged to provide the necessary support for the Selective Service System so that the mandates of the Military Selective Service Act are enforced and the Selective Service System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon.

Res. No.: 356 (Maryland) Subject: **Army Light Helicopter Program**

WHEREAS, The Army light helicopter program is under serious attack and, in the confusion attendant upon the reduction and size of the military forces, is at risk of being terminated; and

WHEREAS, This weapons systems is most important in the future streamlined U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Although the LH total program cost (from 1991 through 2007) is \$42 billion in projected inflation adjusted dollars, it represents a major national commitment to the modernization of a smaller and lighter U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, The Army has no intention of scrapping its Apache, Black Hawk and AHIP helicopter, nor does it intend to forgo the normal upgrades to these aircraft; and

WHEREAS, The Army has established LH cost and weight goals, and program risks, both cost and technical, are moderate and manageable; and

WHEREAS, The LH will be the world's most versatile and survivable scout/attack helicopter, capable of operating across the entire continuum of conflict; and

WHEREAS, The LH is the cornerstone of the Army's efforts to modernize its aviation force structure; and

WHEREAS, The LH is versatile, deployable, and lethal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Congress to support the development and production of the Light Helicopter for the United States Army.

Res. No.: 359 (Maryland) Subject: Arapaho for the United States Army

WHEREAS, The 7th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army is assigned the role of rapid response to crisis situations at distant, remote locations at any point of the globe; and

WHEREAS, This Light Infantry Division will require radically improved mobility, force flexibility and deployment readiness on short notice to an unpredictable variety of locations and situations; and

WHEREAS, Adequate resources for air deployment are currently minimal or non-existent; and

WHEREAS, The ARAPAHO portable air facility has been proven a viable alternative in tests by the U.S. Navy as a seagoing aviation facility; and

WHEREAS, The ARAPAHO, currently on lease to the British Royal Navy, has proven its utility in the evacuation from Beirut of both military and civilian personnel, just the type of mission likely to be assigned to the 7th Infantry Light Division; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO can be quickly transported and assembled ashore to provide an instant aviation shore base which can be quickly dismantled and removed for future use; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO is easily transportable by standard truck or train transport modes, by cargo aircraft, or fully assembled and functional, on the decks of standard commercial merchant ships; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO is extremely cost-effective and versatile, and available hulls in the Maritime Administration's Reserve Fleet can obviate the need for new ship construction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion urge the Department of Defense and Department of the Army in adapting the Navy's ARAPAHO portable, deck-mounted aviation support system to accommodate Army requirements.

Res. No.: 365 (Maryland) Subject: Survivor Benefit Plan

WHEREAS, The Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) has been greatly improved by legislative amendments; and

WHEREAS, Certain desirable provisions pertaining to the Social Security offset were not favorably considered by Congress; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-145 established a "2-tier" system for those who first become retirement eligible after 30 September 1985, but under which survivors' benefits will automatically be reduced from 55% and 35% upon attaining age 62; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-145 requires this automatic offset of the annuity even though the survivor may not be drawing Social Security benefits from the deceased's account; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support legislation to amend Public Law 99-145 to eliminate the automatic age 62 reduction and that at the maximum, survivor benefits be reduced only if there is an actual military service based social security benefit to the survivor.

Res. No.: 362 (Maryland) Subject: Malcolm Grow Medical Center

WHEREAS, The United States Army and the United States Navy have magnificent hospital installations at Walter Reed Hospital for the Army and Bethesda Naval Hospital for the Navy; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has an old installation at Andrews AFB greatly in need of modernization; and

WHEREAS, The personnel who administer to the patients at Andrews AFB are excellent but they are greatly hindered in the performance of their duties by the overcrowding and inadequacy of that installation by modern standards; and

WHEREAS, Military personnel and their dependents and the many retired personnel, most of whom are veterans, and other personnel legally entitled to medical service at Andrews AFB merit care comparable to that administered at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Hospital; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we call upon the Department of Defense and the United States Congress to update the hospital installation at Andrews AFB to a state comparable to that of the Navy installation at Bethesda and the Army installation at Walter Reed.

Res. No.: 382 (Indiana) as amended Subject: **ROTC Fitness Standards**

WHEREAS, Certain colleges and universities in the Midwest and throughout the United States have been pressured by some individuals and/or groups to ban R.O.T.C. units from such schools because homosexuals are not permitted to participate in the R.O.T.C. programs; and

WHEREAS, It has been the policy of The American Legion to support the military programs of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It has been the prerogative of the Armed Forces to select the personnel it considers fit to serve in its various units; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion desires to support this prerogative; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion exert every effort, to include allowing with other American Veterans organizations to maintain the present policy, programs and prerogatives of Armed Forces R.O.T.C. directives and schedules relating to all necessary Service entrance requirements.

Res. No.: 383 (Indiana) Consolidated with **Res. 133** (Illinois); **Res. 267** (District of Columbia); **Res. 308** (Maryland) Subject: **Maintain R.O.T.C. Programs**

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has proposed budget reductions which would disestablish certain ROTC programs on October 1, 1991; and

WHEREAS, The ROTC program is a training course of leadership and discipline among our youth; and

WHEREAS, The ROTC program instills a sense of patriotism in our youth; and

WHEREAS, The ROTC Cadets are the future adults of our country who may be called upon to defend our country and allies if necessary; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the ROTC program through the activities of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion go on record as supporting the continuance of ROTC programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Congress to support ROTC programs by preventing proposed Administration budget cuts from disestablishing ROTC programs.

The following Resolutions were Referred to the Standing Commission on Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation:

Res. No.: 17 (Nebraska) Subject: **Status of Arnold Kephart**

Res. No.: 280 (District of Columbia) Subject: **Support Funding of Veterans' Programs**

The following Resolutions were Referred to the Standing Commission on National Security:

Res. No.: 178 (Pennsylvania) Subject: **Streamlining the Defense Appropriation Process**

Res. No.: 199 (New York) Subject: **Support Increasing Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Coverage**

Res. No.: 275 (District of Columbia) Subject: **Force Reductions and Transitional Benefits**

Res. No.: 292 (Maryland) Subject: **Force Reductions and Transitional Benefits**

Res. No.: 433 (Virginia) Subject: **Force Reductions and Transitional Benefits**

The following Resolutions were rejected:

Res. No.: 111 (Massachusetts) Subject: **Deactivation of 26th Yankee Division Units**

Res. No.: 123 (Texas) Subject: **Support Decorations for Servicewomen**

Res. No.: 149 (Kansas) Subject: **Military Decorations for Servicewomen**

Res. No.: 200 (New York) Subject: **Servicemen's Group Life Insurance for Delayed Entry Personnel**

NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

John J. Wrenn (MA), Chairman

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.: 271 (District of Columbia) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 311** (MD) Subject: **Support for the U.S. Coast Guard**

WHEREAS, Included among the many duties of the United States Coast Guard are the interdiction of drug traffic, intercepting illegal aliens, search and rescue missions, and serving as an essential partner of the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, The drug interdiction effort has assumed major importance to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Continued pressures must be applied to convince drug users and dealers that they must abandon their criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, Neither Coast Guard personnel nor equipment needed to carry out these important missions can be reduced without extreme damage to the war on drugs; and

WHEREAS, The Coast Guard, by law, is at all times—during wartime or peacetime—one of the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Without the necessary funding, the Coast Guard will be unable to meet its many national and international commitments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we urge the Administration and Congress to provide the funding necessary for the Coast Guard to carry out its numerous important duties including, but not limited to, drug enforcement, military readiness, pollution control, maritime safety, and search and rescue missions.

Res. No.: 343 (Maryland) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 272** (District of Columbia) Subject: **Modernize the United States Navy and Marine Corps.**

WHEREAS, Water covers three quarters of the world, and the United States is an "island continent" washed by the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Navy's postwar expansion has created an offense oriented blue water force as a major element in the Soviet Union's global reach that supports expanding Soviet influence from Cuba to Vietnam to Ethiopia; and

WHEREAS, Soviet use of sea power has allowed them to challenge U.S. influence in areas of the world most critical to the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Our national survival and the security of our allies depend on the ability of the United States to maintain sea superiority in order to foster the strategic sealift capability, power projection capability and the strategic combat capability of the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps have superbly shown the United States' ability to project power, when and where needed to uphold U.S. Foreign Policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we support current and future defense budget to reflect a viable U.S. Navy so as to project American seapower abroad; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the continuing modernization of Navy and Marine Corps including the F-14 Tomcat, F/A-18 Hornet, A-6 Intruder, AV-8B Harrier, P-3C Orion,

CH/MH-53E Super Stallion, V-22 Osprey, E-6A TACAMO, and development and production of A-12 aircraft and Navy Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) and full execution and deployment of the SSN-21 Seawolf Submarine program and the DDG-51 Arleigh Burke Guided Missile Destroyer program.

Res. No.: 357 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **ARAPAHO (U.S. Navy and Marine Corps)**

WHEREAS, The Marine Corps is dependent on the Navy for transport of its Amphibious Brigades to crisis locations in time of conflict; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has recognized quantitatively insufficient capital-ship resources for its many assigned missions and is especially deficient in resources to transport and support amphibious-type operations; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO is ideally suited as an easily transported, aviation platform on ship deck or on land; and

WHEREAS, Utilization of ARAPAHO would permit reduction in the need for redundancy of stored military equipment at prepositioning sites all over the world at significant cost savings; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO's capability for transport aboard otherwise idle merchant-ship hulls obviates the need for new capital-ship construction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that in view of the critical need for numerical sufficiency against any foreign Naval threat, it is imperative that the Navy and Marine Corps optimize existing resources to the maximum to develop the wartime option of deployment of ARAPAHO aboard merchant ships.

Res. No.: 360 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **12-Carrier Battle Group Navy**

WHEREAS, The Navy has been endorsed and supported in recent years at a force level of 15 carrier groups to meet tasks in the wide variety of far-flung national commitments, and U.S. guarantees and presence throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Recent worldwide developments Presage drastic reduction in all DOD forces; and

WHEREAS, There is much danger that hysteria and the mad rush to obtain the so-called "peace dividend" will result in intemperate reductions in all forces; and

WHEREAS, The worldwide danger present in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, the Third World countries, and throughout the world continues to be present; and presage drastic reduction in all DOD forces; and

WHEREAS, A strong Naval force requirement exists for all types of Naval units to cope with situations as they develop; and

WHEREAS, A deployable 12 carrier group Navy force level is the absolute minimum by which our worldwide commitments can be met; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that we strongly endorse and support a 12 deployable aircraft carrier battle group Navy as the absolute minimum required to insure United States on-scene response to worldwide trouble spots in timely and present, credible military force in support of our essential national interest.

Res. No.: 361 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Training Bases for the Naval Reserve**

WHEREAS, The recent changes in the international situation, particularly in Europe, has resulted in a perception by our national leader that the threat to our security by the Soviets has been greatly diminished, and accordingly have embarked on a program that significantly decreases the size, strength, and capability of our Armed Forces, as well as closing important training and basing facilities used by our Reserve Forces, and canceling development of many of the proposed new weapons systems; and

WHEREAS, The Reserve Forces, particularly the Naval Reserve, will suffer irreparable damage if those bases which support active Naval Reserve Units that are contiguous to large population centers, as well as being important sites for Naval Air and Surface Units, such as the N.A.S. Alameda, N.S. Treasure Island, N.A.S. Moffit, N.S. Long Beach, N.S. Philadelphia, N.A.S. South Weymouth, and the N.A.F. Detroit, are closed; and

WHEREAS, In considering the uncertainty of the World situation, the planned reduc-

tion of our Armed Forces without a significant up-grading of their capability to keep pace with the Soviet Force's modernization, it is of paramount importance that our Reserve Forces be given priority in assignment of training facilities, modern equipment and recruitment incentives, in order to maintain a viable force sufficient for any eventuality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 1990, that The American Legion go on record supporting the retention, in an active status, all the present training and basing facilities near large population centers, currently being used by the Reserve Forces, and that such Forces be enlarged and equipped with the most modern ships, aircraft, arms, equipment and training devices.

The following Resolution was Referred to the Standing Commission on National Security:

Res. No.: 358 (Maryland) Subject: Reconfigure the Marine Corps

Mr. Commander, National Officers, and fellow delegates. I am particularly pleased to announce the winners of the National Blood Donor Awards for this past year.

Category I—Departments with 100,000 or more members

Post and individual participation—Department of Illinois

Category II—70,000 to 99,000 members

Post and individual participation—Department of Florida

Category III—40,000 to 69,000 members

Post and individual participation—Department of Nebraska

Category IV—25,000 to 39,999 members

Post and individual participation—Department of Tennessee

Category V—10,000 to 24,999 members

Post and individual participation—Department of Montana

Category VI—Less than 10,000 members

Post and individual participation—Department of Rhode Island

The results of the competition for the Paul H. Griffith ROTC trophy are as follows:

Over fifty departments participated in the ROTC awards program this year. A total of 6,032 medals were awarded to deserving cadets in 229 separate ROTC units. For the first time in the history of the awarding of this trophy, there was a four-way tie among the Departments of Alaska, Delaware, Florida and Minnesota, which speaks well for these departments and The American Legion in its recognition of the Youth of America enrolled in ROTC programs.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the deliberations of your National Security Commission, we considered where America was and where she appeared to be headed. Some elements of our society appear to be convinced that the cold war is over and are determined that a so-called peace dividend could be derived by deeply reducing defense budgets and force structures of the Armed Forces of our country. As you saw in our resolutions, The National Security Commission believes that America must continue to be ever vigilant to aggression and to keep its powder dry while maintaining the capability to protect America's National interests in an uncertain world.

Mr. Commander, as a delegate to this convention from the Department of Ohio, I move the adoption of this report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: You have heard the motion. Do I hear a second?

... The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: You have heard the second. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor say aye; all opposed. Carried.

The Report of National Security is adopted.

PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The news media in America has an extremely

important role to play in our democracy. As Legionnaires, we understand this role, for it is the media that must keep American citizens informed.

MARGARETTA A. DOWNEY

Editorial Page Editor

The Poughkeepsie Journal, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: For more than 30 years, the Fourth Estate Award has been presented in recognition of outstanding journalistic achievement.

For 1990, I am proud to present this Award to the Editorial Page Editor of The Poughkeepsie Journal in Poughkeepsie, New York.

This 1990 Award is significant for two reasons; The editorial series "The Crisis In Housing," took a leadership role in identifying a problem and through its editorial pages offering solutions, many of which were implemented.

This marks the second year in a row that a member of The Poughkeepsie Journal has been recognized for this Award. No media operation has ever earned this high honor for two consecutive years. It demonstrates an extremely high level of dedication to serving their fellow citizens by the management and staff of this newspaper.

It is my distinct honor to present to you the winner of The American Legion Fourth Estate Award for 1990, Margaretta Downey.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It is signed by myself as National Commander, Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, and Thomas Kouyeas, Public Relations Commission Chairman.

Meg, congratulations on your excellent work.

MARGARETTA DOWNEY, Poughkeepsie Journal: Commander Epling, Legionnaires, and honored guests. I am very proud to come here today from Dutchess County, New York, which has been represented in Congress for a significant period of this century by distinguished Legionnaire Hamilton Fish.

I am particularly pleased to be back in Indiana as my husband Ed is a graduate of I.U.'s Law School. Now if he could only write music like Hoagy Carmichael.

My son who just turned six was playing a while back with a Sesame Street game. He had a sheet with four objects pictured on it, and he correctly picked the one that did not belong to the group, Big Bird. Pictured first was a small cottage, second an apartment building, third, large suburban home, and fourth, a car.

This is easy, he said, people don't live in cars. I told Evan, he got it right. But the truth is, that for once, Big Bird was wrong.

In Dutchess County and elsewhere, people do live in cars, and this is just a step from a street corner or an underpass, as a home. The number of homeless in our county has increased ten-fold in eight years. The cost of housing has increased by 35 times.

But homelessness is just once more the visible problems, for the lack of affordable housing in this country.

In far greater numbers, our Country has many, and there are many others in this country whose people are helping make the communities work, the teacher, the police officer, fire fighters, bank tellers, store clerks and office workers. Without them, businesses wouldn't come to our communities, and those there won't stay.

My children, when they grow up, may not be able to afford a home in the small town we live in. And when I can no longer climb the long set of stairs in my own house, I, too, may face the dilemma of many of the elderly and have to leave the community that I care about.

It is critical that our leaders in both public and private sectors develop a blueprint for housing, because ignoring the problem, the economic and social problem, the calamity will not make it go away. In my writing about housing, I have been lucky. I have had a publisher, Richard Wagner, and editor is John Quinn, and Jerry Lowenthal who are committed to the editorial series. They believe as I do, that the opinion page can be a forum for investigating, as well as just having them read it, and we just can't tell them what needs to be done, we also need to show them where.

I was also fortunate to have two talented, two colleagues on the editorial staff, Margaret

Pfeiffer, whom you honored with this Award last year, and Judy Herron, whose backup support was critical, and to have parents who taught me the importance of community service, and of speaking out, and to have a husband and children who encourage and inspire my passion for, and sometimes obsession with my work.

To The American Legion, thank you for your commitment to American ideals, such as promoting decent housing for everyone, and thank you for giving me the privilege of standing among you today.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, Magaretta.

PRESENTATION CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

The American Legion has a long and proud history of service to the children of this nation. For decades Legionnaires have introduced unique and effective programs in their communities designed to make life better for the next generation.

American society today faces many new challenges. More women are working out of the home than at any time in our nation's history. With the move from the home to the office comes the expanded need for affordable, safe, day care, for children and for elderly parents who must depend on their children.

Last year in St. Louis, the city that's hosted the first statewide gathering of our Veterans organization in 1990, Television Station KSDK-TV and the National Council of Jewish Women joined together in the community effort called "Taking Care."

This effort involved an in-depth look at the issue of quality care, the establishment of a Hot Line by the station to provide information on licensed day care facilities and other community resources and elder care facilities—the publication and free distribution of a special information packet, and a community forum to bring together day care providers, legislators and parents.

In the final analysis, "Taking Care" made the point, day care must be everyone's responsibility.

KSDK-TV ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: With us this morning to accept the award is the Assignment Editor for KSDK-TV in St. Louis, Elsie Guertin.

... National Commander Epling presented the plaque.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It is signed by myself as National Commander, Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, and Thomas Kouyeas, Public Relations Commission Chairman.

On behalf of 3-million Legionnaires, I congratulate KSDK on your proven commitment to journalistic excellence.

MS. ELSIE GUERTIN: The American Legionnaires, honored guests, I would like to thank The American Legion for this Award.

Every time we turn on the television, there is a story about crime or drugs in our city. We have done numerous series on the problems of drugs with today's youth, and the problem of crime and today's youth.

It is refreshing to know that we also are recognized for our commitment to today's youth.

People need to realize that child care in America today is in trouble. It should not be a privilege for those who can afford it. It should be a right for every child that has to have one or both parents working.

Today's youth faces enough problems without having to worry about who is going to take care of them before or after school, and who will take care of them when mom and dad are in the hospital, or tending to other duties.

KSDK Television has a real commitment to today's youth and child problems, and the problems that they face.

Again, I would like to thank The American Legion for recognizing Channel 5 in this area.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much.

BLOOD CENTER PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The American Legion has a long history of being the largest identifiable group of blood donors in America. In the past program year Legion Posts organized Blood Drives in their communities collecting nearly 120,000 units of blood.

For three days during this National Convention we conducted a Blood Drive in the main lobby of this Convention Center. This is the fourth year for the National Convention Blood Drive, and each year we are more successful.

Our Legion Blood Drive is held to provide a good supply of blood at a time of the year when donations generally lag. I believe we have had a successful event.

With us this morning is the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center. He has asked for time before this body for the purpose of a presentation.

Please welcome Byron Buhner.

BYRON BUHNER

**Chief Executive Officer and President
Central Indiana Regional Blood Center**

Commander, Members of The American Legion and distinguished guests. As President of the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center, it is a pleasure to be here this morning and recognize the commitment of your membership to the Community Blood Program of Indianapolis, Central, Indiana, and last but not least, the United States of America.

The American Legion exemplifies the strong sense of community responsibility to individuals such as yourself, and it demonstrates your commitment to helping countless thousands and thousands of patients in need of blood and blood products.

You truly are committed to the preservation and the sanctity of life.

The American Legion represents the notion that our nation's blood supply is won.

At this 72nd Convention of your membership 328 units of blood were donated during your visit.

For your gift and for your support, I cannot thank you enough, but we would like to commemorate the Blood Drive here in Indianapolis, and we have a plaque that I would like to present to your National Commander.

Presentation

This plaque reads, "An Award of Appreciation from the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center Presented to The American Legion National Convention in Grateful Recognition of Outstanding Service for the Volunteer Blood Program in Central Indiana."

... Applause as the plaque was presented to National Commander Epling.

MR. BUHNER: And one last item of housekeeping here.

At this Convention, the 328 units of blood that were represented, the State of Ohio represented 25 units, which was the most from any one state.

Presentation

I also have an Award of Appreciation presented to the State of Ohio and their American Legion members from the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center for outstanding services and supporting the Volunteer Blood Program of Indiana.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Byron. But most of all, thank you to the people out there, because you gave the blood so that others can live.

Thank you so much for doing that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: At this time, I would like to call on National Vice Commander Vince Blank. Will you please take the gavel and preside over the next order of business.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE AND COLORS TO OUTGOING NATIONAL COMMANDER

NAITONAL VICE COMMANDER BLANK: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to preside over this very important time in the 72nd National Convention, for it is time to present to our National Commander, Miles Epling of West Virginia, a Plaque and the Colors of his year in office.

I now call on Past National Commander Dale Renaud, of Iowa, to present the plaque.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DALE RENAUD, Iowa: Distinguished guests and fellow Delegates to this 72nd Annual Convention. It is my privilege and certainly a personal honor this morning to make a presentation to Commander Epling.

Commander Miles, last year in Baltimore, you stated that you had a small thought about being National Commander back in 1969 when you first joined The American Legion. And now, here we are, in 1990, and that small thought of a dream has transpired into fact, and all of us are better off, because of that dream.

This plaque reads:

"National Commander Miles S. Epling, Elected by the National Convention to Serve in the High Office of National Commander of The American Legion for the year 1989-1990. In Appreciation of his Dedicated Leadership and Recognition of his Devoted Service to God and Country, and a Token of the High Esteem of his Fellow Legionnaires, this Citation is Presented to him by Authority of the National Executive Committee.

"Given on this the 30th day of August, 1990, before the Delegates Assembled at the 72nd National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana."

Commander, I am confident you will honor and take pride in it as you share it with all who see it, but especially as you share it with Diane, Tommy and Travis.

Congratulations, and thank you for a job well done, walking the point for The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you, Past National Commander Dale.

At this time, I call upon National Executive Committeeman, Jack Gribben of West Virginia to present the Colors.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN JACK GRIBBEN, West Virginia: Color Guard, attention.

Will the Delegates to this National Convention please rise.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Ceremonial Color Guard is a Mason-Dixon Color Guard from American Legion Post 42 in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Color Guard, prepare to retrieve the Colors of the National Commander.

... Color Guard mounts platform; Color Guard approaches standards and orders retrieval as Color Guard takes Colors. Gribben orders hand salute.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN GRIBBEN: Right hand salute.

Commander Epling, on the opening day of this Convention, you detailed the accomplishments of the past 12 months. You talked of our successes, and they are many. You talked of the challenges that still face us, and they are formidable. And you thanked people for "walking the point" with you for America as the programs of The American Legion continued to grow.

This morning, I want to speak on behalf of millions of your fellow Legionnaires to tell you how proud we are of you. Your leadership and devotion have made it easy for us to do

what you asked. Your patriotic example has been an inspiration to countless Americans, not just members of the Veteran community. In every sense, you have fulfilled the lofty expectations of your office.

There is just no way I can focus on one aspect of your year of leadership. Our membership growth continues, a sign that you and the leaders of our 58 Departments fully realize the difference an active Legion program can make.

Your dream of more baseball players, more youth program participation, and more service to Veterans became a reality. This Legion year has truly been one of success.

We know that you worked tirelessly seeking protection for our Flag from physical desecration. The issue is not resolved, but, in your own words, you summarized the feelings of millions of your fellow citizens—the fight is not over.

For all your efforts and sacrifices of the past year, we thank you and salute you. The beautiful set of Colors, the free flying Flag, the symbol of America recognized around the globe, and the distinctive red banner of the National Commander will serve as reminders of your year of service. I know that each time you gaze upon them they will remind you of your year at the helm of the nation's largest, and fastest growing Veterans organization.

The Plaque presented to you by Dale Renaud, certifies your service during the 1989-1990 Legion year.

May this beautiful Certificate always stand as a reminder to all who see it of the thousands of miles you traveled and the service you rendered as our National Commander. I hope you will always regard this Plaque as a reminder of the millions of Legionnaires who "walked the point" for you this year. They, as you, are very proud Americans.

The men and women of the Department of West Virginia and the members of your family share with you the pride and accomplishment these Colors and Plaque represent. Please accept them as tokens of our appreciation to you and for your dedication to God and country.

On behalf of more than 3-million men and women of The American Legion, we present them to you with our thanks, our love and our gratitude.

Commander Epling, you can be proud of a job well done.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Color Guard, retire my Colors. Right hand salute.

... The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Commander Renaud, NECmen Gribben, Fellow Legionnaires, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

There are no words to adequately tell you the rush of emotions I feel right now. Since my election a year ago in Baltimore, the days have rushed by. How quickly time slips from us.

Just a few minutes ago, Jack Gribben talked of my dream for more members, more baseball players, more youth involved in our programs, more of everything the Legion offers to this country.

Well, let me tell you about dreams. It was years ago when I dreamed of being a Post Commander. That dream came true.

Then I dreamed of perhaps serving as a Department Commander, and that dream came true.

As I became involved with The American Legion on the national level, my dreams turned to the possibility of one day becoming a National Vice Commander, and that dream came true. That experience still brought me another dream, the dream of being the National Commander, allowed to represent more Veterans in the highest levels of our government. Thanks to you, that dream came true.

As my year comes to a close, I find myself not looking back. Instead, I'm focused on the future. Call it a dream if you will, but a dream that sees continued strong growth for our organization. A dream that sees new programs to benefit our children. A dream that sees daring efforts to protect the Veterans of this nation, and the health care system that was promised.

Yes, I even see the day when our Flag of our nation will get the protection it deserves. But, just as important, I see a rekindled pride in Americans to honor and respect our Flag.

Finally, I dream of a time when there will be no more wars. As we prepare to complete the business of this 72nd National Convention, the real threat of armed conflict hangs

heavy in another part of the world. This new threat comes at the end of a year of broad changes which have brought a breath of freedom to countries of the world.

Those of us who have been to war know the reality. We do not want to see our sons, daughters, or grandsons and granddaughters forced to learn a lesson the hard way. Today, I ask each of you to say a prayer for peace. It can make a difference.

As we began this Convention I paid tribute to the team that made this past year's accomplishments possible. On a personal note I want to say a few more words of thanks to those people.

Let me leave you with one last thing. Mary Martin once said, be careful what you dream, it can come true. Let me just talk to you about some people that I'm very, very proud of, and I think have served The American Legion so well this year. That's my five National Vice Commanders. Jerry Goetzinger, right up here, Joe Caouette, Andy Cooper, Vince Blank, and Vinton Guy.

These guys are the ones that made me look good, and I'm very, very proud of my five National Vice Commanders.

Let's give them a big hand.

There are two other guys that served with me that I'm very proud of. One is our national Chaplain, Lynn. Lynn did an outstanding job for us this year.

And our National Historian, Carl Pilgrim. I don't know where he is. I know he's here someplace. But Carl, thank you, wherever you are.

My National Sergeant-at-Arms from West Virginia, Bill Burkett.

The next group I want to introduce are some special people to me, the people from my home Post in Point Pleasant. I love you all. I know some of you are here.

To some others I want to thank would be, of course, last year's Department Commander, Bill Cowen and his wife, Bev. Please stand, Bill and Bev.

And this year's Commander from West Virginia, a personal friend of mine from my home Post, Bobby Rulen and Kathy. Stand, please. Bobby Rulen and Kathy.

A guy that did everything in my campaign that possibly could be done, he kept the money, and trust me, he kept it.

But he did everything that anybody could ever ask. A truly, truly friend, somebody I'll love for the rest of my life. Bob and Margaret Vass.

The only way I know how to get out of this any easier is to say would all West Virginia please stand. I love each and every one of you.

... The Delegation from West Virginia stood on the Convention Floor and received applause.

A guy that has worked all year with me and traveled around this great country and been to foreign countries; packed my clothes; tried to get me to go to bed when I should; didn't work much, but tried. My aide, Bill Karnes, and his wife, Tina. I think they are back here somewhere.

Of course this year would not have been complete without having the help of Jimmy Williams, and I don't know whether Jimmy is in here or not, but if you are, Jimmy, thank you very much for everything you did for me when I was in Washington.

Two guys who do everything that you possibly ask for, and they make sure your year goes good, and that's the Executive Directors of the Washington and Indianapolis office, Bill Jackson and Mylio Kraja.

Phil Onderdonk, thank you so much for all the legal counsel, and Ron, I appreciate both of you guys.

And I don't know whether this lady is in the room or not, but she made me walk the point. Eileen, are you in here? My Secretary, Eileen Tharp. I want to say thank you to her.

To all of you, you know, I just can't think of the right words I want to say because there are so many people that need to be thanked. All the Past National Commanders in the room, please stand, because you guys are the ones that gave me the guidance that made sure I had a good year.

And all you NEC men, please stand, because you are the ones that make the Legion work every day.

And then a group of people that do everything that makes the Legion work day-by-day.

and without them we couldn't make it, the staff of The American Legion. Staff, all of you that are here, please stand.

Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

And then a guy that has stood by my side to make me look good all year, or tried, done everything possible, he's the best friend a National Commander has, and he does it all for you, the National Adjutant of The American Legion, Robert Spanogle.

Lastly, well, not lastly, one more after this one, but just to all the Legionnaires in this room, the Auxiliary Members, the SAL, Junior Auxiliary, and just my friends, thank you all so much for giving me this wonderful year and making my dream come true.

Thank you.

Thank you very much. One last person I want to introduce, people I guess I want to introduce, people who let me be National Commander. The lady that took care of two boys when I couldn't be home, my wife, Diane, and my two sons.

MRS. MILES EPLING: I have a small presentation that I would like to make to Miles. When he was elected as Department Commander, I presented him afterwards with a white-gold Department Commander's ring. At that time he said how come you didn't buy me the gold one. I said I'm saving that if you ever become National Commander.

So now at this time I would like to present him with that ring.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you very much, Diane.

Let me just end by saying thank you so much to each and every one of you. As I travel around this great country, there's nobody any better than The American Legion people and Auxiliary people and the SALs. You will always be my family. You will always be the people that I care about.

From the bottom of my heart, God bless each and every one of you. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Vince Blank.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER VINCENT E. BLANK: Commander Epling, on behalf of all the National Vice Commanders it has been a great year for us. We enjoyed serving with you.

We all got together and decided we would buy you something special, and of course, there has to be someone in the crowd that does it, and I was picked to do this job.

We bought something that there was only 5,000 of them made, and I'm sure that you will appreciate and add this to your collection.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: That was a Mint Commemorative Colt .44 Pistol that they presented to me. Very beautiful.

I would like to call on my aide, Bill Karnes at this time.

MR. BILL KARNES: Before making this presentation, I would like to take the opportunity to thank every Department in this great organization we belong to for the outstanding courtesy and the hospitality that was shown to myself and my Command and my Department of West Virginia. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great man.

Commander Miles, your theme was walking the point, and the man that has everything it's hard to pick something out for you, but I thought I would get you this nice trophy. To Miles Epling, Walking The Point, National Commander, 1989-1990.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: We have come now to a Special Order of Business, the Election of National Officers.

As Chairman of this Convention I now appoint as Judge of this Election, Robert E. Vass, Sr., Adjutant of West Virginia, and as Tellers of the Election, Roger L. Tingler, Past Department Commander of Georgia; Edward T. Hoak, Adjutant of Pennsylvania, and Robert J. Foster, Adjutant of Indiana.

... Robert S. Turner of Georgia was nominated and elected to the office of National Commander.

ROBERT "BOB" TURNER
National Commander 1990-1991

Thank you all so very much.

I thank you for electing me National Commander of the world's largest and greatest Veterans organization.

I am proud to represent you, the more than 3-million men and women of The American Legion, and I pledge to you that I will carry on the finest traditions of this organization, and of those who have served me before.

There are so many people in the audience this morning that I need to thank, people that I've known and served with at every level of the Legion and in its many programs, people who have advised me, and helped me achieve this distinguished post.

I am sorry that I simply don't have the time to mention everyone by name, but I especially want to thank my good friend Dale Renaud of Iowa for administering the Oath, and to Roy Stone of South Carolina, the Chairman of the Southern Block for his support and understanding; to my good friend George Osborne who made a special effort to be here with me today, and to place my name in nomination, and certainly to my friend Bill Moore and Roger Munson for their seconding speeches, and to the General Chairman of the Campaign, and my NECman for more than 26 years before his retirement last year, W. D. "Cuz" Harrell.

I am happy to have on the stage with me this morning from the Department of Veterans Service in the Great State of Georgia, our Commissioner, Mr. Pete Wheeler. Pete, where are you?

Commissioner Wheeler, I appreciate your coming, and for the fact that you have reassured me just this morning that I will have a job to come home to next September.

Ladies and gentlemen, give him a hand. Commissioner Pete Wheeler.

There is a very special group of people in the audience that I could never thank enough, to have done so much for me and my family. Many of them worked long hard hours as members of the Campaign Committee, some of the very finest people that God ever put on the face of this earth, both Legion and Auxiliary from the Great State of Georgia.

Thank you, Georgia, I love you.

Now if I may take just a moment to recognize and introduce some very special people in my life: My family—my mom and dad are not able to be here with us today. My dad will be 89 in November, and my mom 86 in November. They are both in very poor health.

Mother is currently in the hospital, and just two days ago, we were told that she is going to need skilled care nursing, and so we are trying to make arrangements now to move her into a nursing home.

My brother and my sister are back home taking care of my parents, and I miss them all, but I do understand.

I do have with me my in-laws from Dalton, Georgia, Betty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Jones.

And of course, I want to bring once again, my immediate family, my wife Betty, our son Dean, and then his college roommate, fraternity brother, another one of our adopted sons, Brian.

As I travel around this great nation during the next 12 months and make all the Department visits, I hope to see as many of you as I possibly can, and to thank you personally for your support.

I have been a Georgia boy all my life. I was born in Georgia, lived and worked there, and raised a family.

I did my military service in Georgia, and a little more than 20 years ago, I joined The American Legion, Freeman Sassar Memorial Post 172-174 in my hometown of Senoia. Georgia has been a major part of my life, so it shouldn't be any surprise that whenever I sing the State Song, "Georgia On My Mind," it is really a meaningful thing to me, and I get a thrill from it.

But during these last few months, as I traveled throughout the country, I have come to realize that for this next year, I don't have a whole lot of time to devote to my home state. I

have to concentrate on the affairs of The American Legion on a national scale all over this great country.

I must concentrate on the production of our great organization and our great nation, and the theme for this year, I have simply taken the word "Georgia" from our State Song and inserted, "America."—"America On My Mind."

Having America on my mind is really nothing more than having people and principles and programs of The American Legion on my mind.

As I look out upon this Convention assembled here in Indianapolis, I feel that I am looking at America. The American Legion has a proud reputation in this cross-section of America, and we are what America is all about.

I am looking at the face of America.

As Legionnaires, the things we care about, the things we try to do in our communities, in our state and in our nation are for the benefit of our great country, and her citizens.

This morning, as I stand before you, I have a lot of those American things on my mind, and I want to briefly talk to you about some of them.

I have got an American Flag on my mind. I have vivid pictures in my mind about Flags being burned by the so-called protesters—they weren't protesters. These misguided dissidents, who want to tear this country apart and use this country's guarantees of speech to protect their despicable and traitorous acts.

I have a vivid memory of a Supreme Court which twice ruled that burning the American Flag was okay as a form of protected political expression. I cannot forget that too many members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives failed to hear the voice of an overwhelming majority of we, the people, and did not allow a proposal to protect the Flag by a Constitutional Amendment, to be decided by all of us Americans.

The will of the majority has been suppressed by the yelling rhetoric of a minority, who believe that Flag burning is free speech. Well, I will tell you, and I will tell them what is on my mind, to fight, to protect the American Flag is not over, by a long shot.

The American Legion will increase and expand its efforts to seek that Constitutional Amendment to protect our Flag.

We will work to see that another resolution for that Constitutional Amendment is introduced in the 101st Session of Congress in January.

We will continue to write letters and contact our Congressmen and let them know how we feel.

I urge each of you to work with your State Legislature and encourage them to adopt memorial resolutions to demand the Congress allow the citizens to decide whether they want that amendment.

We will step up programs for Flag education all over America. The American Legion will not abandon its demand for a Constitutional Amendment to protect the Flag, not now, not ever.

In recent weeks the world situation has kept America on my mind. Once again, America has sent its military forces overseas in great numbers to protect our vital interests, and as the President says, to stand up for what is right and condemn what is wrong.

We do not yet know where these world events will lead us, but one thing we do know, it is certainly a lesson in the need for maintaining an adequate state of military preparedness.

Democracy and freedom can be protected and defended through a strong national defense. Democracy and freedom have begun to come to a number of nations which for long years have suffered under the dictator of communism.

I have visited Central America in January, and I have seen the new hope in the eyes of Nicaraguans, now I am to visit Eastern Europe and witness with the glimmerings of democracy where once there was an Iron Curtain.

The world has changed rapidly over the past year or so now, and we find ourselves entering into a new relationship with the Soviet Union, our ideological enemy for so many years.

Indeed, we find ourselves joined in a broad world alliance against a single power, power hungry renegade, who seems intent on gobbling his Mid East neighbors and disrupting the world economy.

America must remain strong. The American Legion continues to support a military

establishment that can deter aggression by anyone, and preserve peace and democracy throughout the world.

I have the serious matter of an adequate health care entitlement for the American Veterans on my mind. As a Claims Counselor with Georgia Department of Veterans Services, I have seen firsthand the tragic results of an underbudgeted VA in a Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where we have entire floors that are closed, simply because there is not enough money, there is broken equipment that needs replacing, and new equipment that needs to be purchased.

There are sick and disabled Veterans who are desperately in need of Medicare that must wait for days or even months before they are able to receive help.

It is like that in VA Medical Centers all over this country. The money is just not there.

I don't necessarily blame the Department of Veterans Affairs for these problems. I blame the Federal budget process, and those that are responsible for drawing it up and approving it.

And my fellow Legionnaires, we are facing a real crisis right now when it comes to that budget. As you know, there has been a "budget summit" going on. Committees of both Houses of Congress and the White House have been meeting to negotiate on how to reduce that budget.

But there have been serious discussions and reviews of various Veterans' entitlements, including medical care, and service-connected disability compensation.

Let it be heard loud and clear on Capitol Hill, The American Legion will not stand for any further cutbacks in government funding for Veterans' health care and benefits or compensation.

There are many Veterans who are homeless. There are many more Veterans who are without jobs, and by the end of this century, over 10 million Veterans will be past the age of 65. The need for adequate nursing home care will increase.

The American Legion will continue to work for programs that will solve these needs of America's Veterans.

In case someone doesn't think that the more than 3 million strong American Legion is serious about its advocacy of Veterans, I remind them that the Legion has just filed a lawsuit against the United States Government on the matter of Agent Orange.

It is the first time in our 72-year history that we have had to resort to such a drastic measure.

But for 12 years, we have waited for the Federal Government to provide adequate medical care and fair compensation for the Vietnam Veterans, who were exposed to Agent Orange, and who are now suffering with their families any number of strange illnesses and diseases, including rare cancer.

The American Legion will lead the fight for America's atomic radiation Veterans, and those who contracted lung cancer while working with asbestos, and it took us 40 years to win that battle. We are not willing to wait that long while America's Veterans and their families are suffering, and yet some of them even dying from the effects of Agent Orange.

We want our government to complete the scientific study that they were supposed to do, and declare the medical effects of Agent Orange as compensable disability.

As I keep "America On My Mind" I cannot help but think about the future and my friends. The future is in America's young people. Today's youth are our tomorrow, and that is why I'm so proud of The American Legion's programs for children and youth.

The day I signed an application to become a member of The American Legion, I was asked to become the Post Oratorical Program's Chairman, and I have been involved in the Legion's Youth Program since that day.

I spent 20 years working with the Georgia Boys State Program, and I was on the staff of Boys Nation for four years. It is one of the most important and effective Legion programs for America's youth.

But all of that program, such as the Boy Scouts, the Oratorical, American Legion Baseball, and Special Olympics, teaches civic responsibilities and respect for self and others, and yes, respect for the American Flag.

We all know too well the many dangers that loom before our children. But for many years Legion programs have offered wholesome alternatives that nurture growth and teach

young people to understand the importance of family, Mr. Commander, and in this great country of ours, isn't that what The American Legion is all about?

We have so many wonderful and worthwhile programs in The American Legion. Our volunteerism, and activism, and dedication to our State and Nation is what makes America great, but you know, there are a lot of Americans that still don't know what we are, and what we do. We have got to tell them. We have got to get The American Legion story to them.

Once you put on the cap of The American Legion, you become a representative of our organization, and it is your duty to go and sell our organization to America.

Tell the Legion's story, tell people who we are, and what we do.

And, oh, yes, that one important thing that all of us must do, ask them to join The American Legion. There are many eligible Veterans out there who probably have not been given the opportunity to say, yes, to the world's greatest and largest Veterans organization. They have never been asked.

Can you believe that? But it is true. Everywhere I go, I hear that same story, no one has asked them to join.

My fellow Legionnaires, until all of them have been asked, we will still have a tremendous job ahead of us. We have reached a membership of over 3 million again this year. There is every reason to believe that we will continue to grow larger in the foreseeable future.

Let the word go out, we are not a dying Veterans organization.

We will continue to be the world's largest and fastest growing Veterans organization.

We have just passed a resolution at this Convention calling for a change in eligibility dates, and if it is approved by Congress, as many as 3.8 million new Veterans will be eligible for Legion membership. We must give them the opportunity to join our organization.

With our increased strength and voice, we will continue to build on all the great things we do in company with The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, and we must be strong and unified.

There is a story that I have used so many times as I have traveled around this country of ours. It comes from a book. We learned it all in kindergarten, written by Robert Fulton, and it says so much about unity, the unity that makes us great, is we work together.

It simply says, "No matter where we go or what we do, no matter how old we are, wherever we go out into the world, it is always best if we hold hands and stick together."

Your neighbor can't do it by himself; your State Commander can't do it; no individual can do it. If you all work together, the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of The Legion, the entire Legion family working together, being unified involved, then we can accomplish that job before us. You know, the last four letters of the words, "America"? I do. I can and together, we can.

I am about to serve as your National Commander, and I look forward to leading this great family to greater accomplishments in the coming year.

I ask all of you to think on that same theme of "America On My Mind." America is the song of that state, so I want you to all join hands with me and concentrating on the central idea for these next 12 months, "America On My Mind," and "on your mind, on all our minds."

God bless you, and God bless America.

... Standing applause.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS

The following were elected National Vice Commanders by acclamation and without opposition: Lewis Adams, Nebraska; James T. Anderson, Wyoming; Fred M. Ingellis, Mississippi; Harry F. McDowell, Florida; and George E. Sampson, New Jersey.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I would like to call the new National Commander, Bob Turner, and his Vice Commanders, please come up to the podium for pictures.

I now call upon Past National Commander John Geiger of Illinois.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GEIGER, Illinois: National Commander Epling,

Delegates and friends, the audience will please rise for the presentation of his Colors to National Commander Robert S. Turner.

Color Guard, please post the Colors of the new Commander of The American Legion.

... Hand salute.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEGER: It is my honor to represent every Member of The American Legion in presenting these Official Colors of The American Legion to National Commander Robert Turner.

This proud symbol of Freedom, the Flag of the United States of America and the bright crimson standard of The American Legion are dramatic emblems of our democracy and our loyal membership.

Commander Turner, please accept your Official Colors, and know that our prayers and best wishes go with you.

Color Guard, present the Colors.

... The Delegation stood and saluted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT TURNER: Past National Commander Gieger, on behalf of the National Organization, I accept these Colors with pride and honor, with the assurance to all of you, that they will be kept in a place of dignity during my term as your National Commander.

The Colors have now been returned to their place of honor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: It is now my privilege to present to this Convention, the newly elected President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Ruby Paul of Nebraska.

MRS. RUBY PAUL
National President
American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you, Commander Miles, Delegates to this National Convention, Officers and Guests, a very short time ago, I told the Delegates at The American Legion Auxiliary Convention that God had made this beautiful day, one that I would remember as one of the proudest and happiest days of my life.

It is a tremendous honor to stand before this very distinguished and dedicated group of Americans, to extend greetings to you on behalf of the nearly 1,000,000 members of The American Legion Auxiliary.

Many years ago, your founding fathers had the foresight to make provision for the Auxiliary to The American Legion.

We are your Auxiliary, and we are your helping hand. One of our purposes, one of our main purposes is to contribute to the accomplishment of your aims and purposes, and we are prepared to do that.

On behalf of the Members of The American Legion Auxiliary, I pledge to you our continued support and cooperation and our allegiance for the coming years, as we continue to give God and country their rightful places within our hearts.

In promotion of a family affair, we invite every Legionnaire in this room to enroll his wife, daughter, sister, mother, granddaughter or granddaughters in our Auxiliary membership. We have a great organization. We are proud of our accomplishments. But imagine if you will, how much more we could accomplish if the entire family members would join us.

We need them, and we welcome them into membership.

I could not leave this microphone without telling the Delegates to this Convention how much I appreciate and how grateful I am for them electing a very proud American, a super Legionnaire, and one who will do an outstanding job as your National Commander, Bob Turner.

Bob and his lovely wife Betty have been a true asset to this organization, and will serve you with honor and with distinction, and I am so very proud to be able to serve with him.

Thank you for this privilege, and may God bless you all abundantly. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Madam President, I ask that you remain on stage for a moment, as I call our newly elected National Commander to the lectern.

It is fitting for this Convention to greet the team that will lead our organization in the coming months.

Ladies and gentlemen, National Commander Robert Turner and National President Ruby Paul.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT TURNER: You remember when I talked about getting out and getting new members to join our organization, and you also recall the things I said about unity, and how this American Legion family can do such wonderful things if we work together in a unified effort. Well, National President Ruby and I have gotten ours heads together, and we have cooked up a real surprise to you, a Family Fantasy that can achieve both of these goals.

We all want you to take a seat for a few minutes and watch the big screens on either side of the stage now to find out what our Fantasy is all about.

... At this time a cruise video was shown to the audience.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT TURNER: Can you imagine yourself and your wife living the life of luxury on that cruise liner that you have just seen?

Well, there is a bigger surprise. You can be one of 40 lucky persons to enjoy that experience absolutely free.

Internal Affairs will award free passage in a double cabin, that means two persons, to 20 Posts which win a special contest for membership renewal. The winning Post will decide who receives the award.

What do you think, Ruby, is this a Family Fantasy?

NATIONAL PRESIDENT RUBY PAUL: Commander, I know that members of The American Legion Auxiliary will leave no stone unturned to sign up as many members as they possibly can, and I know that I cannot wait to get on board that ship for that Fantasy Cruise.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT TURNER: I know that plenty Legionnaires feel the same way as we do.

You may have seen the travel booth in the lobby just outside, and you will find tables and representatives of that group right after we adjourn here. We want you to go to the booths and find out about the cruise and make your reservations as quickly as possible for your fabulous Legion Auxiliary Fantasy on this luxury ship.

If you think that is something, and you think this is a real surprise, you ain't seen nothing yet. We got an even bigger surprise for you.

If you sign up for the Family Fantasy Cruise, or if your membership efforts make you one of the 20 lucky winners of an all-expense paid trip, you are in for the treat of your life. Just before the Fantasy sails from the port of Miami, you will be treated to a special show by one of the greatest entertainers of all time, Mr. Bob Hope.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT TURNER: That is right. Bob Hope himself has agreed to give you a special sendoff just to Legion Members who sail on the Fun Ship Fantasy.

So when you go out, you go out to the booth now and sign up and make your friends come with us on this exciting cruise.

We must remind you also that there is limited space available, and it is on a first come, first serve basis, after the winners have been awarded.

Thank you all very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I will now call on the National Adjutant for the purpose of announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Pursuant to the National Constitution By-Laws of The American Legion, where it is written that the Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee will happen within 24 hours of the adjournment of the Con-

vention, the National Executive Committee Meeting, Post-National Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Rooms 123-124 in this Convention Hall following the adjournment of the National Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Is there any further business to come before this Convention?

Please uncover, and the Outgoing National Chaplain Lynn S. Kearsley will offer the benediction.

LYNNS. KEARSLEY
National Chaplain

Our Father in heaven, as this 72nd Conference of The American Legion has drawn to a close, we look back upon the past few days and reflect upon the things we have seen, heard and participated in.

We are grateful for the reports of success we have heard with instructions we have received, and for the enthusiasm that has been generated in each one of us.

May that enthusiasm carry forward with us as we return to our Departments and Posts, for the results may be evident by our continued growth in membership and effectiveness in the many programs responses.

We pledge our support in defense of our rights, beliefs and blessings as Veterans and as citizens of this great land.

We commit ourselves to work untiringly to protect these stars and stripes, the symbol of what America stands for.

Now as we have elected new Officers, new Commanders, new Vice Commanders, new Auxiliary Officers, we ask Thy special blessings upon each one of them.

We pray especially for Commander Bob, and President Ruby, as they travel the length and breadth of this country to many foreign lands. Keep them safe, bless them with good health and protect them from danger.

Again, remember those who are serving in the Armed Forces in defending, protecting and safeguarding our rights and our programs and our way of life.

Let Thy protecting care be with them, and each of us as we return to our homes. We pray for Thy benediction now in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: The Color Guard will retire the Flag of the United States, and the Delegates will stand and salute.

Right hand salute.

... The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: I now declare the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion, adjourned, sine die.

... At 1:30 P.M., the 72nd Annual National Convention of The American Legion adjourned, sine die.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL AWARDS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 24-30, 1990
Indianapolis, Indiana

The Henry D. Lindsay Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.

WINNER—South Dakota (96.69%)

The North Carolina Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.

WINNER—Mexico (96.10%)

General Henry Gourand Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of five categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Departments having been the first in its receptive category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986) (Roman numerals denote categories).

WINNERS—Category I—Ohio (4-10-90), Category II—Maryland (4-10-90), Category III—Virginia (5-17-90), Category IV—Connecticut (3-20-90), Category V—Puerto Rico (4-30-90), Category VI—Delaware (2-12-90)

The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.

WINNER: Delaware (105.66%)

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.

WINNER: Mississippi (32.85%)

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of Sons of The American Legion in each of two membership size categories (I—1-999 members; II—1,000-2,000 members, III—3,000 members), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category. (Roman numerals denote categories).

WINNERS: 1989—I—North Carolina; II—Kentucky; III—New York

National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in Welfare Work for War Veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.

WINNER: Minnesota

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding serv-

ice during the period Aug. 1 to Aug. 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

WINNER: Maryland

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits of the United States showing greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

WINNER: Florida

Hearst Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports, and supporting Department narrative.

WINNER: Ohio

Spafford National Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.

WINNER: Kentucky (Joshua E. Boyd) Ft. Thomas, KY

Howard P. Savage Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the Baseball Team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in the American Legion "World Series."

WINNER: Maryland (Cummings-Behlike Post 226), Mayo, MD

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually to the national championship team of the World Series of American Legion Baseball.

WINNER: Cummings-Behlike Post 226, Mayo, MD

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger R.B.I. Memorial Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

WINNER: Luis Rosaro, Post 48, Bayamon, PR

George W. Rulon Baseball Player of the Year: By virtue of a special arrangement with officials of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, an American Legion Baseball player is selected each year from the competing teams at the National Finals as the "American Legion Baseball Player of the Year." This player's picture is mounted upon a plaque and placed in the Game's Shrine at Cooperstown, New York. The selection is made on the basis of playing ability, integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship and general good conduct.

WINNER: Mark Foster, Cummings-Behlike, Post 226, Mayo, MD

Rawlings "Big Stick" Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most bases as determined by the official scores of the respective re-

gional Tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

WINNER: Ricardo Otero, Oscar A. Rolon Post 48, Bayamon, PR

Bob Feller Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player participating in the Regional Tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball who records the greatest number of strikeouts in such competition.

WINNER: Clifton Foster, Texarkana Post 58, Texarkana, AR

Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up in the National Finals of the Baseball program.

WINNER: Puerto Rico (Oscar A. Rolon Post 48, Bayamon, PR)

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.

WINNER: Cadet Keith A. Haverstrite

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman at the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.

WINNER: Midshipman First Class James Michael Greene, Charlottesville, VA

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have excelled personally in athletics.

WINNER: Cadet Lane D. Johnson

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.

WINNER: Senior Cadet Brittany J. Thurber, Portland, OR

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.

WINNER: Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.

WINNER: American Legion Band of the Tonawandas; Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

The Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion Bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

WINNER: American Legion Band of the Tonawandas; Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

The Glen R. Hills Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

WINNER: The Rifles—Senior Color Guard, Post 6, Springfield, OH

National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually for outstanding service to the nation and to the program of The American Legion.

WINNER: Dr. Michael E. DeBakey

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.

WINNERS: Daniel A. J. Cole, (Australia), Joon-Yeol So, (Korea), Francois Harter, (France)

Canadian Friendship Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.

WINNERS: Len O'Neill, John D. Gallow, William Norman Carruthers, John E. Silverthorn, Donald Gower, Nelson Fournier, Ronald A. H. Dube, Charles Atkin, Paul Auger, Doug Bruce, A. T. "Art" Ballingall, Cecil M. Burke, James R. Brooks, William N. Carter, Keith Crampton, Lawrence Delorme, Donald K. Eriksen, Donald Gerrish, Rene Gagnon, Herbert Henderson, Gordon Harron, Margaret Mae Khan, Akmal Walter Khan, Harry Koroll, M. E. "Peggy" Merrick, Donald Mercer, Thomas F. Rock, George Rigden, Frank Size, Jack Stott, Margaret Semple, Marvin Schmidt, Purvis Thurston, William Trufal, Robert Wynne, John Yeomans, Gerald James Dickens

Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, television, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies or programs.

WINNER: Margaretta A. Downey, The Poughkeepsie Journal

National Commander's Public Relations Award: Awarded to an outstanding individual and/or organization for distinguished public service in the field of communications.

WINNER: Richard Severo and Lewis Milford

Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting: Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post reports.

WINNERS: Maine, Vermont, Delaware, New York, Florida, North Dakota, Utah

Employer of the Year Award for Hiring Veterans: Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and regaining of veterans.

WINNERS: Category I—Lockheed Aeromod Center, Inc. of Greenville, South Carolina II—JIMCO, Inc., of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Balance Sheet

	December 31	
	1989	1988
ASSETS		
CURRENT FUND:		
Cash	\$ 234,306	\$ 450,222
Restricted cash	791,781	—
Agent orange program	9,305	—
Accounts receivable:		
Emblem Division	121,948	122,880
Publications Division	869,715	652,332
Other	125,400	136,176
Accrued interest on investments	291,313	205,455
Inventories:		
Emblem Division	833,897	844,733
Publications Division	982,449	977,958
Prepaid expenses and supplies	1,121,393	292,759
Prepaid pension expense	1,808,704	1,702,610
Deferred membership expense	100,876	156,558
Deferred direct membership solicitation expense	2,915,303	3,654,646
Deferred revenue enhancement expense	345,320	529,651
Postal deposits	50,000	50,000
	<u>10,601,710</u>	<u>9,775,980</u>
Investments—note 2:		
Segregated for Designated Funds	9,066,104	11,507,759
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building	609,366	591,782
Segregated for health insurance	1,074,108	—
Restricted for pension	192,253	—
Other	17,559,051	16,785,916
	<u>28,500,882</u>	<u>28,885,457</u>
Property and equipment:		
Land—Indianapolis parking lot	238,359	238,359
Washington, D.C. real estate:		
Land	80,000	80,000
Building	1,253,521	1,253,521
Construction in progress—building renovation	3,406,139	734,652
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in:		
National Headquarters building, Indianapolis,		
Indiana	2,415,656	2,360,131
Washington, D.C. building	532,542	590,775
	<u>7,926,217</u>	<u>5,257,438</u>
Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	2,829,763	2,687,583
	<u>5,096,454</u>	<u>2,569,855</u>
	<u>44,199,046</u>	<u>41,231,292</u>
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS—NOTE 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Cash	34,855	30,695
Accrued interest on investments	14,851	14,655
Investments	735,198	696,947
	<u>784,904</u>	<u>742,297</u>
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Accrued interest on investments	170,231	130,505
Investments	8,786,013	7,826,192
	<u>8,956,244</u>	<u>7,956,697</u>
	<u>\$53,940,194</u>	<u>\$49,930,286</u>

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit A

	December 31	
	1989	1988
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		
CURRENT FUND:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,640,093	\$ 1,012,625
Agent orange program	9,305	—
Capitalized lease obligations—note 3	56,937	79,218
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	157,513	162,611
Funds in transit to The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust	684,820	401,875
Deferred dues income	13,171,311	12,632,207
Deferred income—direct membership solicitation	1,453,726	1,321,815
Deferred revenue enhancement income	328,453	275,233
Accrued vacation benefits	377,900	347,529
Provision for health insurance liability	45,003	45,000
Other liabilities	135,858	83,088
Total liabilities	<u>18,060,919</u>	<u>16,361,201</u>
Fund balances—notes 4 and 5:		
Restricted funds:		
Oratorical Contest Fund	211,068	154,722
Other restricted funds	260,023	88,952
Designated funds:		
The Restricted Fund	6,896,159	9,334,750
The Reserve Fund	2,169,945	2,173,009
	<u>9,537,195</u>	<u>11,751,433</u>
Appropriated funds	1,541,977	1,541,977
Unappropriated	15,058,955	11,576,681
Total fund balances	<u>26,138,127</u>	<u>24,870,091</u>
	<u>44,199,046</u>	<u>41,231,292</u>
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS—NOTE 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Fund balance	784,904	742,297
	<u>784,904</u>	<u>742,297</u>
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Fund balance	8,956,244	7,956,697
	<u>8,956,244</u>	<u>7,956,697</u>
	<u>\$53,940,194</u>	<u>\$49,930,286</u>

Current Fund

	Year Ended	
	1989	
	Unappropriated	Appropriated Funds
REVENUE:		
National dues	\$16,709,677	
Sales of Emblem items	5,923,138	
Advertising revenue	5,863,972	
Investment income	1,507,910	
Direct membership solicitation	1,833,863	
Revenue enhancement	665,838	
American Legion Endowment Fund		
Corporation income—note 7	605,959	
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust—note 8	973,858	
Other restricted income	209,096	
Other income	2,346,112	
	<u>36,639,423</u>	
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	6,984,310	
Employee benefits—note 9	885,490	
Cost of sales	4,220,974	
Direct publication expenses	10,467,210	
Executive and staff travel	697,714	
Commission and committee	1,088,775	
Operational	5,910,431	
Office	3,197,654	
Occupancy	832,815	
Special projects and programs	2,100,848	
	<u>36,386,221</u>	
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	253,202	
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	11,576,681	\$1,541,977
Interfund Transfers—note 4	3,229,072	—
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$15,058,955	\$1,541,977

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B
Sheet 1

December 31

		1988
Designated and Restricted Funds	Total Current Fund	Total Current Fund
	\$16,709,677	\$15,872,806
	5,923,138	5,749,768
	5,863,972	5,544,999
\$ 787,417	2,295,327	2,184,225
	1,833,863	1,175,215
	665,838	867,321
	605,959	562,025
137,000	1,110,858	1,010,736
275,919	485,015	199,736
158,424	2,504,536	1,688,736
<u>1,358,760</u>	<u>37,998,183</u>	<u>34,855,567</u>
	6,984,310	6,703,741
	885,490	962,417
	4,220,974	4,211,955
	10,467,210	9,947,715
	697,714	682,529
	1,088,775	1,080,707
	5,910,431	4,388,705
	3,197,654	3,024,682
	832,815	863,252
343,926	2,444,774	2,118,857
<u>343,926</u>	<u>36,730,147</u>	<u>33,984,560</u>
1,014,834	1,268,036	871,007
11,751,433	24,870,091	23,999,084
<u>(3,229,072)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>\$9,537,195</u>	<u>\$26,138,127</u>	<u>\$24,870,091</u>

(Exhibit B
Sheet 2)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

**Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
Designated and Restricted Funds
Year Ended December 31, 1989**

	Designated Funds	
	The Restricted Fund	The Reserve Fund
REVENUE:		
Investment income	\$ 790,481	\$(3,064)
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8		
Restricted contributions		
Other income		
	<u>790,481</u>	<u>(3,064)</u>
EXPENSE:		
Special projects and programs	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	790,481	(3,064)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	9,334,750	2,173,009
Interfund Transfers—note 4	(3,229,072)	<u> </u>
Fund Balances, End of Year	<u>\$6,896,159</u>	<u>\$2,169,945</u>

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B
Sheet 2Restricted Funds

Oratorical Contest Fund	Other Restricted Funds	Total Designated And Restricted Funds
		\$ 787,417
\$137,000		137,000
18,851	\$257,068	275,919
	158,424	158,424
<u>155,851</u>	<u>415,492</u>	<u>1,358,760</u>
 99,505	 244,421	 343,926
 56,346	 171,071	 1,014,834
154,722	88,952	11,751,433
		(3,229,072)
<u>\$211,068</u>	<u>\$260,023</u>	<u>\$9,537,195</u>

(Exhibit B
Sheet 1)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Changes in Financial Position—Increase (Decrease) in Cash
Year Ended December 31, 1989

	Current Fund	Overseas Graves Decoration Trust
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 1,268,036	\$ 42,607
Add:		
Depreciation charged to operations not requiring cash	219,825	
Loss from sale of fixed assets	8,039	
Certain working capital transactions:		
Restricted cash	(791,781)	
Accounts receivable	(205,675)	
Accrued interest on investments	(85,858)	(196)
Inventories	6,345	
Prepaid expenses and supplies	(934,728)	
Deferred expenses	979,356	
Postal deposits	—	
Accounts payable	627,468	
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	(5,098)	
Funds in transit to American Legion		
Life Insurance Trust	282,945	
Deferred income	724,235	
Accrued vacation	30,371	
Provision for health insurance liability	3	
Other liabilities	52,770	
Cash provided by operations	<u>2,176,253</u>	<u>42,411</u>
Investing activities:		
Additions to property and equipment	(2,756,975)	
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	2,512	
Net decrease/(increase) in investments	<u>384,575</u>	<u>(38,251)</u>
	<u>(2,369,888)</u>	<u>(38,251)</u>
Financing activities—Principal payments under capital lease obligation	<u>(22,281)</u>	
Increase (Decrease) in cash	(215,916)	4,160
Cash, Beginning of the Year	<u>450,222</u>	<u>30,695</u>
Cash, End of the Year	<u>\$ 234,306</u>	<u>\$ 34,855</u>

Paid-Up For Life Membership Fees	1989 Total	1988 Total
\$ 999,547	\$ 2,310,190	\$ 1,880,670
	219,825	201,857
	8,039	1,806
	(791,781)	—
	(205,675)	423,028
(39,726)	(125,780)	(41,571)
	6,345	(78,281)
	(934,728)	(390,808)
	979,356	(877,419)
	—	2,000
	627,468	(14,607)
	(5,098)	2,749
	282,945	(391,980)
	724,235	830,004
	30,371	6,586
	3	16
	52,770	5,951
<u>959,821</u>	<u>3,178,485</u>	<u>1,560,001</u>
	(2,756,975)	(1,073,545)
	2,512	1,689
(959,821)	(613,497)	(533,295)
(959,821)	<u>(3,367,960)</u>	<u>(1,605,151)</u>
	(22,281)	(19,546)
—	(211,756)	(64,696)
—	480,917	545,613
<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 269,161</u>	<u>\$ 480,917</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

General: The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service of their country."

Basis of Presentation: The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1988 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund and Statement of Changes in Financial Position are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1989 amounts.

Accounts Receivable: The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories: Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments: Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Property and Equipment: Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the month of acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D.C. building is computed on the straight-line method using a thirty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Depreciation expense amounted to \$219,825 in 1988 and \$201,857 in 1988.

Income: Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recognized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and the American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan: The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax: The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2—INVESTMENTS (Current Fund):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	December 31			
	1988		1989	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Segregated for Designated Funds:				
U.S. Government obligations	\$ 7,816,925	\$ 7,918,896	\$10,799,221	\$10,605,460
Accrued interest—restricted	157,179	157,179	207,239	207,239
Money market accounts	1,091,500	1,091,500	501,000	501,000
Uninvested cash	500	500	299	299
	<u>9,066,104</u>	<u>9,168,075</u>	<u>11,507,759</u>	<u>11,313,998</u>
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building:				
U.S. Government obligations	609,366	606,891	591,782	570,762
Segregated for health insurance:				
Money market accounts	224,108	224,108	40,458	40,458
Certificate of deposit	850,000	850,000	650,000	650,000
	<u>1,074,108</u>	<u>1,074,108</u>	<u>690,458</u>	<u>690,458</u>
Restricted for pension:				
Money market accounts	192,253	192,253	—	—
Other:				
U.S. Government obligations	13,975,851	13,913,945	12,695,458	12,371,914
Certificates of deposit	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Repurchase Agreements	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000
Money market accounts	1,183,200	1,183,200	1,000,000	1,000,000
	<u>17,559,051</u>	<u>17,497,145</u>	<u>16,095,458</u>	<u>15,771,914</u>
Total investments	<u>\$28,500,882</u>	<u>\$28,538,472</u>	<u>\$28,885,457</u>	<u>\$28,347,132</u>

NOTE 3—CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

The Legion has entered into a lease agreement (which is accounted for as a capital lease) for the rental of a copier. The Legion has an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the original lease term at its fair market value. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased copier. Cost and accumulated amortization of the capitalized lease was \$128,395 and \$85,597 at December 31, 1989 and \$128,395 and \$64,197 at December 31, 1988. Future minimum payments on the copier lease, together with the present value of the payments, is as follows:

Years ending	
December 31:	
1990	\$ 31,397
1991	31,397
1992	<u>2,618</u>
Total future minimum payments	65,412
Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 13%)	<u>8,475</u>
Present value of future minimum payments	<u>\$ 56,937</u>

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately \$119,000 in 1989 and \$132,000 in 1988.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1989. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated \$340,000 in 1989 and \$320,000 in 1988. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1993.

NOTE 4—RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance

Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income to the Restricted Fund. There was no transfer to the Restricted Fund for 1989 due to a net loss. The Restricted Fund transferred \$3,229,072 to unappropriated funds during 1989 for the Washington, D.C. building renovation project.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

- (a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or
- (b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

NOTE 5—APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers during 1989 between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds at December 31, 1989 and 1988 were as follows:

Computer Reserve	\$ 500,000
Real Estate Reserve	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	100,000
Totals	<u>\$1,541,977</u>

NOTE 6—NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1989 are as follows:

	<u>Overseas Graves Decoration Fund</u>	<u>Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund</u>
Revenue:		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected . . .		\$ 867,819
Investment income	\$ 60,409	891,377
	<u>60,409</u>	<u>1,759,196</u>
Expenses:		
Membership dues withdrawn		591,557
Decoration of graves	17,802	
Administrative expense		136,791
Trust fees		31,301
	<u>17,802</u>	<u>759,649</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	42,607	999,547
Fund balances, January 1, 1989	<u>742,297</u>	<u>7,956,697</u>
Fund balances, December 31, 1989	<u>\$784,904</u>	<u>\$8,956,244</u>

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	December 31			
	1989		1988	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:				
U.S. Government obligations	\$ 735,198	\$ 741,452	\$ 696,947	\$ 680,806
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:				
U.S. Government obligations	\$6,789,271	\$6,863,917	\$5,591,575	\$5,546,138
Money market accounts	323,835	323,835	815,303	815,303
Common stocks	1,672,907	2,344,801	1,419,314	1,672,623
Total investments	<u>\$8,786,013</u>	<u>\$9,532,553</u>	<u>\$7,826,192</u>	<u>\$8,034,064</u>

NOTE 7—AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of \$2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of \$1,967,839 at December 31, 1989, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to \$605,959 in 1989 and \$562,025 in 1988.

NOTE 8—LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurers, which aggregate to \$5,536,131 as of December 31, 1989, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

- To increase the Trust fund.
- To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.
- To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.
- To make refunds to the participants.
- To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1989, \$887,708 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1990.

NOTE 9—PENSION PLAN:

The funded status of the plan at the end of the year was:

	December 31	
	1989	1988
Actuarial present value of plan benefits:		
Vested	\$(12,962,220)	\$(11,223,181)
Nonvested	(521,323)	(677,251)
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>(13,483,543)</u>	<u>(11,900,432)</u>
Projected benefit obligation	(14,693,658)	(13,878,002)
Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stock, bonds, and U.S. securities	20,468,532	19,482,314
Excess of plan assets over projected benefit obligation ..	5,774,874	5,604,312
Unrecognized net gain	(1,559,805)	(1,286,842)
Prior service cost not yet recognized in net periodic pension cost	(1,023,022)	(1,106,390)
Unrecognized net asset at end of year	<u>(3,429,387)</u>	<u>(3,721,250)</u>
Prepaid pension expense	<u>\$ 1,808,704</u>	<u>\$ 1,702,610</u>

Net pension expense (credit) included the following components:

	December 31	
	1989	1988
Service cost—benefits earned during the year	\$ 514,230	\$ 541,599
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	1,014,328	982,936
Actual return on assets	(1,849,645)	(1,403,302)
Net amortization and deferral	214,993	(184,582)
Net pension expense (credit)	<u>\$ (106,094)</u>	<u>\$ (63,349)</u>

The discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7.25 and 3%, respectively, for 1989 and 7.75 and 3%, respectively, for 1989 and 7.75 and 6%, respectively, for 1988. The assumed rate of return on plan assets during 1989 and 1988 was 8 and 7.5%, respectively.

NOTE 10—LITIGATION

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

Supplementary Information
THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Reconciliation of Audited Financial Statements to
Internal Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 1989

	Total Current Fund
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses— Internal Financial Statements	\$ 253,202
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses (Unappropriated)— Audited Financial Statements—exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 102)	\$ 253,202
Add:	
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials—principally The Restricted Fund—exhibit B, sheet 2 (page 105)	<u>1,014,834</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses—Audited Financial Statements—exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 103)	<u>\$1,268,036</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION 72D ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

National Commander Miles S. Epling of West Virginia provided excellent leadership of the more than 3 million members in more than 16,000 posts throughout the Nation and overseas, allowing The American Legion to record another year of rewarding service to America and its veterans.

The American Legion national headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to the Indianapolis facilities, an office is maintained in Washington, D.C., housing those organizational functions requiring a close working relationship with the Congress and the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government. The American Legion's Magazine publisher, the editor and editorial staff are located in The American Legion's Indianapolis offices.

The National Commander's report is published herein as a part of the Convention proceedings. Reports of the other national officers, the national commissions, financial statement with accompanying data, and a report of the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary are included. During this year the two organizations, true to tradition, provided vital leadership to the Nation and contributed significantly to the preservation of its institutions. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward with confidence to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE,
National Adjutant.

EXCERPTS FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The American Legion shall be organized in departments and these in turn in posts. There shall be one department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one department in each territory in insular possession of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of departments already established.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any said periods; provided however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to membership in another Post, without the consent of the expelling Post except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, he may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. The legislative body of The American Legion shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said Convention and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid, and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegate shall be chosen not less than two weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by the Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be the majority of the registered delegates present from his Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials after his registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

ARTICLE VI

The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice-Commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No person shall be eligible for reelection to the Office of National Commander or National Vice-Commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of The American Legion in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy. Provided, however, that no Past National Commander or Past National Vice-Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure

of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Past National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions to The American Legion, with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Departments.

ARTICLE VII

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice-Commanders, and one National Executive Committeeman and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to vote only in the absence of the committeeman.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Hamilton Fish, New York
E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
George N. Craig, Indiana
Erle Cocke, Jr., Maryland
J. Addington Wagner, Michigan
John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois
Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma
Martin B. McKneally, New York
William R. Burke, California
Hon. Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota
Donald E. Johnson, Virginia
L. Eldon James, Virginia
William E. Galbraith, Missouri
J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma
Alfred P. Chamie, California
John H. Geiger, Illinois
Joe L. Matthews, Texas

Robert E.L. Eaton, Maryland
James M. Wagoner, Ohio
Harry G. Wiles, Kansas
William J. Rogers, Maine
Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana
John M. Carey, Florida
Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana
Michael J. Kogutek, New York
Jack W. Flynt, Texas
Al Keller, Jr., Illinois
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
Dale L. Renaud, Iowa
James P. Dean, Mississippi
John P. (Jake) Comer, Massachusetts
H.F. (Sparky) Gierke, North Dakota
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia

National Executive Committeemen

Floyd E. Fann, Alabama
William M. Bishop, Alaska
Julian F. Santos, Arizona
Claude Carpenter, Arkansas
Bruce Thiesen, California
Mrs. H. Rena Chaplin, Canada
James H. McNeal, Colorado
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut
Donavon L. Orth, Delaware
Richard R. Giasson, D.C.
George L. Derrick, Florida
Merwyn M. (Mike) Beavers, France
Horace E. Borders, Georgia
Robert J. Conrad, Hawaii
Marion P. Johnson, Idaho
Paul E. Briese, Illinois
Gilbert F. Sheeks, Indiana
Leo Maynard, Iowa
Frank C. Bottigliero, Italy
U.S. (Udie) Grant, Kansas

Silas M. Noel, Kentucky
Paul M. Severson, Louisiana
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Earl C. Nuttall, Maryland
John J. Mulkern, Massachusetts
Thomas L. Hogan, Mexico
Roy B. Bicotte, Michigan
Donald R. Schroedl, Minnesota
Fred M. Ingellis, Mississippi
Jerome N. Roach, Missouri
Donald Buffington, Montana
Roger L. Wild, Nebraska
Charles F. Langel, Nevada
George V. West, New Hampshire
Albert M. Robotti, New Jersey
Robert W. Durand, New Mexico
Vance E. Ketcham, New York
Robert A. Tart, North Carolina
Howard V. Erickson, North Dakota
Dominic V. Belloni, Ohio

Tom C. Smith, Oklahoma
 T. Les Galloway, Oregon
 William T. Kelly, Panama Canal
 Joseph V. Adams, Pennsylvania
 Ernesto P. Golez, Philippines
 Juan H. Cintron, Puerto Rico
 Walter R. Perry, Sr., Rhode Island
 E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
 Donald Clarke, South Dakota

Carl E. Levi, Tennessee
 John D. Morris, Texas
 William E. Christoffersen, Utah
 James G. Brouillette, Vermont
 Edwin J. Dentz, Virginia
 Samuel B. White, Washington
 Jack T. Gribben, West Virginia
 James E. Chapin, Wisconsin
 E. Lawson Schwowe, Wyoming

Alternate National Executive Committeemen

James M. Harbuck, Jr., Alabama
 Joseph T. Craig, Alaska
 Richard H. Patton, Arizona
 Gordon E. McQuain, Arkansas
 Charles (Chuck) Niemeyer, California
 David F. Martinez, Canada
 Ovie H. Vernon, Colorado
 Frank D'Angelo, Connecticut
 Donald E. Neil, Delaware
 Sotero Garcia, D.C.
 Harry F. McDowell, Florida
 Ray Harrison, France
 J.C. Hartwick, Georgia
 Charles Haffner, Hawaii
 Frank Dalton, Idaho
 Frank Johnston, Illinois
 David D. Heath, Indiana
 Bernard E. Blink, Iowa
 Vincent G. McAloon, Italy
 Ralph (Sonny) Jones, Kansas
 Michael D. Leon, Kentucky
 J.O. Berthelot, Louisiana
 William L. Ciciotte, Maine
 Donald C. Messick, Maryland
 Michael E. Cassidy, Massachusetts
 John E. Hayes, Mexico
 Willard E. Coffey, Michigan
 Vernon K. Carstenen, Minnesota
 Hershel O. Ladner, Mississippi

Harrell H. Boedeker, Missouri
 Herman Jensen, Montana
 Jack O. Gilmont, Nebraska
 Jack M. Howell, Nevada
 Albert J. Hunnewell, New Hampshire
 Joseph F. Ward, New Jersey
 Bennie Casaus, New Mexico
 Frank J. D'Amico, New York
 Robert J. Patton, North Carolina
 Floyd V. Semenko, North Dakota
 Robert L. McCarty, Ohio
 Charles LeRoy Brown, Oklahoma
 Robert D. Scott, Oregon
 William T. Kelley, Panama Canal
 Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
 Eufemio C. Lanado, Sr., Philippines
 Carlos Orria Medina, Puerto Rico
 Dennis T. Golda, Rhode Island
 John L. Ferguson, Sr., South Carolina
 D.R. (Don) Mason, South Dakota
 Ralph M. Stovall, Tennessee
 Lee Guy, Texas
 Clarence W. Jones, Utah
 Calvin W. Cole, Vermont
 Jack M. Rainey, Virginia
 E.R. (Andy) Adams, Washington
 Eugene T. Billmeyer, West Virginia
 Lloyd A. Wagener, Wisconsin
 Pat McCreery, Wyoming

Commission, Committee, and Employees

The National Executive Committee, upon nomination by the National Commander, appoints the following standing commissions: National Americanism Commission, National Commission on Children and Youth, National Convention Commission, National Economic Commission, National Foreign Relations Commission, National Internal Affairs Commission, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion Magazine Commission, National Public Relations Commission, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and National Security Commission.

The National Executive Committee provides for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of The American Legion, and prescribes their duties and emoluments.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

VINCENT E. BLANK, Iowa

At the closing session of the 71st Annual National Convention of The American Legion on September 7, 1989, in the Convention Center of Baltimore, Maryland, I was elected to serve as a National Vice Commander under National Commander Miles S. Epling.

The following departments were assigned to my responsibility: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

I was able to visit all of the assigned Departments. The following is a list of events in which I actively participated:

September 19, 1989, Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.
 October 13-15, 1989, National Commanders Homecoming, Huntington, West Virginia.
 October 16-19, 1989, National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 October 27-29, 1989, Region 5 Leadership Workshop, Southfield, Michigan.
 November 17-19, 1989, Jamboree of the Egyptian Past Commander Club, Department of Illinois.
 November 30-December 3, 1989, Membership Rally, Department of Iowa.
 January 12-14, 1990, Mid-Winter Conference, Department of Indiana.
 January 26-27, 1990, Winter Conference, Department of Kentucky.
 February 17, 1990, American Legion Birthday celebration, Department of Iowa.
 February 26-28, 1990, Annual Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.
 March 3-4, 1990, Spring Conference, Department of Missouri.
 March 26-31, 1990, Membership Roundup, Department of Ohio.
 May 2-3, 1990, Spring Meeting of National Executive Committee, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 May 29, 1990, Presentation of Awards, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.
 June 21, 1990, Medal of Honor Memorial Dedication, Department of Iowa, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
 July 13-15, 1990, Department Convention, Department of Iowa.
 July 19-22, 1990, Department Convention, Department of Michigan.
 August 28-30, 1990, National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana.

In my area of responsibility only one Department, Ohio, met their membership quota. Several other Departments will reach their targets when the DMS memberships are credited.

It has been my pleasure to serve as National Vice Commander under Miles S. Epling. I appreciate the cooperation of the national staff. Their guidance and assistance made my year one of the best ever.

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent The American Legion as a National Vice Commander.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

JOSEPH E. CAQUETTE, New Hampshire

The greatest honor ever bestowed on this Legionnaire occurred on September 7, 1989 when I was elected National Vice Commander of the American Legion to serve in the Cabinet of National Commander Miles S. Epling.

The following Departments were assigned to me: Delaware, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, D.C., France and Italy. All of these Departments have done a tremendous job in promoting the programs of the American Legion and have excelled in membership efforts. I was received with warmth and friendliness wherever I travelled and am most grateful for this overwhelming experience.

Following is an abbreviated list of my year's activities:

September 7, 1989; Post-Convention briefing from National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle and Directors of the American Legion.
 September 13, 1989; Naturalization Program, Dover, NH.
 September 17-20, 1989; Washington Staff briefings.
 September 24-26, 1989; Indianapolis Staff Briefings.
 October 1, 1989; Honored by Postmasters of NH and Nation. Hampton, NH.
 October 6-8, 1989; Region 2 Leadership Workshop, E. Brunswick, NJ.
 October 13-15, 1989; National Commander's Homecoming, Huntington, W.V.
 October 16-17, 1989; Fall Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
 October 18-19, 1989; NEC Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
 October 27-29, 1989; Region 1 Leadership Workshop, Springfield, Ma.
 November 4, 1989; Dept. Commander Testimonial, Hartford, Ct.
 November 11, 1989; Veterans Day Military Ball, Laconia, NH.
 November 11, 1989; Veterans Day Programs with Congressman Smith in Rochester and Somersworth, NH.
 November 22, 1989; Visited Washington office.
 January 6, 1990; NH Veterans Home Holiday Party.
 January 27, 1990; Midwinter Conference, Portland, Maine.

February 3, 1990; With Initiation Team. Newmarket, NH.
 February 9, 1990; Midwinter Conference. Burlington, Vermont.
 February 10, 1990; Midwinter Conference, Laconia, NH.
 February 24-28, 1990; Washington Conference.
 March 3, 1990; Dept. Commander Testimonial, Tiverton, Rhode Island.
 March 10, 1990; Legion Birthday, St. Albans, Vermont.
 March 15, 1990; Memorial Date Testimony, State House, Concord, NH.
 March 24-25, 1990; DEC and Dept Cdr Testimonial, Trenton, New Jersey.
 April 2, 1990; Governor's signing May 30, Memorial Day Proclamation, State House, Concord, NH.
 April 4, 1990; Regional 1 Oratorical Contest, Portland, Maine.
 April 6-7, 1990; National Commander Epling's Visitation to NH.
 April 28-29, 1990; Pa. DEC and Dept., Commander Testimonial, Harrisburg, Pa.
 April 30-May 1, 1990; Commission and Committee Meetings, Indianapolis.
 May 2-3, 1990; NEC Meetings, Indianapolis.
 May 5, 1990; National Auxiliary President Visitation. Hudson, NH.
 May 19, 1990; Auxiliary Juniors Convention. Newport, NH.
 May 22-23, 1990; Coast Guard Academy Awards and Commencement, New London, Ct.
 May 30, 1990; Cathedral of the Pines National Memorial. Rindge, NH.
 June 2, 1990; Dept. Cdr. Testimonial. Hudson, NH.
 June 9, 1990; NH Veterans Home Centennial. Tilton, NH.
 June 10, 1990; National Vice Commander Testimonial. Rollinsford, NH.
 June 15-17, 1990; State Convention, Bangor, Maine.
 June 20-21, 1990; State Convention. Pittsfield, Mass.
 June 22, 1990; State Convention, Portsmouth, NH.
 June 23, 1990; State Convention; Warwick, Rhode Island.
 June 24, 1990; State Convention, Portsmouth, NH.
 June 28, 1990; Girls State Inauguration. Concord, NH State House.
 June 29-30, 1990; State Convention. Barre, Vermont.
 July 10-12, 1990; State Convention, Ocean City, Maryland.
 July 13-14, 1990; State Convention. Wilmington, Delaware.
 July 19-21, 1990; State Convention, Binghamton, New York.
 July 27-28, 1990; State Convention, Hartford, Ct.
 August 11, 1990; State Auxiliary Secretary Retirement. Greenville, NH.
 August 24-30, 1990; American Legion National Convention. Indianapolis.

The American Legion is alive and well in all areas I have visited. The enthusiasm is strong and positive and my area of responsibility will reach close to a million members by the end of the year.

I have devoted the entire year to the American Legion and hope that my efforts aided in producing the achievements gained through the year.

It's been a pleasure to serve in this capacity under the inspirational leadership of Commander Epling.

God Bless you all.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

ANDREW J. COOPER, Alabama

On September 7, 1989, at the 71st Annual National Convention of The American Legion, in Baltimore, Maryland, I was elected one of five National Vice Commanders to "Walk The Point" with our National Commander, Miles Epling in helping to lead this great organization in Service for God and Country. The year has been a highlight in my "many" years of continuous membership and work in the Legion.

With only a few weeks remaining in this Legion year, most of the goals I set for myself have been met. In the Departments I represent we are only one-half of one percent from reaching our membership goal and it is very likely that we will exceed this before the year ends. I visited and traveled in eleven Departments helping to get membership and promote programs. Listed below is a report on these visits and activities.

Before leaving Baltimore we met with the National Commander and members of the National Staff for a very helpful and thorough briefing on Legion Policies and Programs, and our responsibilities in implementing them in our respective regions. The National Staff did an excellent job during this briefing session and others that followed.

September 15-17, 1989, National Leadership Workshop, Charleston, SC.

September 18-19, 1989, Briefings and Training Sessions for new officers, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN.
 September 29-30, 1989, National Leadership Workshop, Oklahoma City, OK.
 October 13-15, 1989, National Commander's Homecoming, Huntington, WV.
 October 16-19, 1989, Fall Meetings, National Executive Committee Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
 October 21-22, 1989, Workshop, Department of Alabama, Mobile, AL.
 October 28-29, 1989, Fall Conference, Workshop, Biloxi, MS.
 November 11-12, 1989, National Veterans Day Activities, Birmingham, AL.
 December 1-3, 1989, Department Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
 January 19, 1990, Mid-Winter Conference, Decatur, AL.
 January 20-21, 1990, Mid-Winter Conference, Little Rock, AR.
 February 10, 1990, Department Executive Committee Meeting, Montgomery, AL.
 February 25-28, 1990, Washington Conference, Washington, DC.
 March 9-11, 1990, Winter Conference, Chattanooga, TN.
 March 17, 1990, Legion Birthday, Department of Alabama, Birmingham, AL.
 March 22-25, 1990, Department Conference and Membership Roundup, North Carolina.
 March 27-28, 1990, Birthday Celebration, Tuscaloosa, AL.
 April 5-7, 1990, National Oratorical Finals, Tampa, FL.
 April 20-25, 1990, Membership Roundup, Department of Oklahoma.
 May 1-3, 1990, Spring Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
 May 28, 1990, Memorial Day Activities, Pensacola, FL.
 May 29-30, 1990, Awards Convocation, West Point, NY.
 June 7-10, 1990, Florida Annual Convention, Hollywood, FL.
 June 22-24, 1990, Alabama Annual Convention, Birmingham, AL.
 June 29-July 1, 1990, Tennessee Annual Convention, Chattanooga, TN.
 July 13-15, 1990, Virginia Annual Convention, Richmond, VA.
 July 19-21, 1990, Georgia Annual Convention, Gainesville, GA.
 August 24-30, 1990, National Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

I am proud to have served as a National Vice Commander during this past year. Association with hundreds of Legionnaires in many states has been an inspiration to me.

In every Department I was received in a kind and courteous way. In most Departments the Department Commander, Department Adjutant and National Executive Committeeman rolled out the welcome mat, and had a well planned and constructive program in which I participated. I wish to express my appreciation to all of the Departments who made my visits meaningful and pleasant in every way. I have given my best in service wherever I went. It has been a good experience for me and I will always be glad that I was a part of The American Legion's programs and progress in 1989-90.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

GERALD GOETZINGER, South Dakota

For me to be elected National Vice Commander at the 71st. Annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Baltimore, Maryland September 5-7, was an opportunity of a lifetime. I was excited about "walking the point" and serving the American Legion with my friend National Commander Miles Epling.

I was assigned responsibility in the Departments of Kansas, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Canada, and South Dakota. During the year there was much Legion activity in these Departments and I participated in the following:

September 13-19, 1989, Legislative Conference, Washington, DC. Was impressed with the workings of National American Legion.
 September 22-24, 1989, Region 6 Leadership Workshop, Lincoln, NE. There was much enthusiasm about Legion programs.
 September 25-26, 1989, Briefing National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN. Found out there was much about American Legion I did not know.
 October 13-15, 1989, Commander Epling's Homecoming, Huntington, West Virginia. A time of good comradeship.
 October 16-18, 1989, National Executive Meeting, Indianapolis, IN. Much was accomplished for the good of the American Legion.
 November 3-4, 1989, Fall Conference, Department of Minnesota, St. Louis Park, MN. An outstanding membership program was put into action.

November 16-18, 1989, Toured Northeast Nebraska with Nebraska Commander, Carmon Wheatcraft. The American Legion is important to the rural communities.

November 25, 1989, Reception in my honor, Post 240, Martin, SD.

December 1-3, 1989, Annual Past Commanders and Membership meeting, Stevens Point, WI.

January 21-29, 1990, Tour Kansas with Commander Chiappetti, Travelled 1,900 miles and made 48 appearances. Represented the National Organization at the dedication of the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth, KS.

February 2-4, 1990, South Dakota Midwinter Conference, Watertown, SD. Membership above expectations for this time of year.

February 9-11, 1990, North Dakota Midwinter Conference, Mandan, ND. Good attendance and interest in Legion programs.

February 26-28, 1990, Annual Washington Conference, Washington, DC. Dedication of newly remodeled National Headquarters, impressive.

March 9, 1990, Speaker Legion Birthday, Dawson, MN.

March 14-16, 1990, Tour Eastern South Dakota with Commander McBrayer. First time in SD for such a tour.

March 24, 1990, Speaker District 1 meeting, Ainsworth, NE.

April 9, 1990, Speaker District 9 meeting, Philip, SD.

April 28-29, 1990, Aerial Roundup, Crystal Airport, Minneapolis, MN.

May 2-3, 1990, Spring Meeting National Executive Committee, Indy.

May 19, 1990, SD Annual District Commander Workshop, Watertown, SD.

May 25-27, 1990, Canada Convention, Vancouver, BC. Small Department, large area, but lots of enthusiasm and dedication. With some P.R. help, could increase membership.

May 30-31, 1990, Memorial Day, Arlington National Cemetery. The highlight of my year, representing the National Commander in laying wreath at Tomb of Unknown.

June 3, 1990, Dedication of Post Home, Creighton, NE.

June 9-12, 1990, South Dakota State Convention, Brookings, SD. Introduced Ed Derwinski, Secretary Veterans Administration to the SD legionnaires.

June 22-24, 1990, Nebraska State Convention, Kearny, NE. Nebraska has many good, active Legion programs.

July 13-15, 1990, Wisconsin State Convention, Wauwatosa, WI. It had been a good active Legion year in Wisconsin.

August 18, 1990, Speaker Homecoming South Dakota Department Commander, Bob Demery, Mobridge, SD.

August 26-30, 1990, 72nd National American Legion Convention, Indy.

It was a great membership year with Departments in my Area having over 387,273 members. SD, MN, KS, ND, and WI went over their 100% target and MN set another all time high in membership.

In my travels of the Departments, I found the programs of the American Legion were carried out with enthusiasm and good participation. I also found the veterans and citizens were concerned and outraged about VA funding, Agent Orange, and flag desecration. There is a definite need for the Family Assistance program, Emergency Disaster fund and the Education Loan program.

It was exciting to see first hand the power of the American Legion, as it spoke out on important veterans issues and a pleasure to serve with National Commander Epling and a dedicated National Staff. To be a National Vice Commander is an honor I will never forget.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

VINTON R. GUY, Colorado

At the closing session of the 71st Annual National Convention of the American Legion on September 7, 1989, in Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland, I was honored to be elected to the high office of National Vice Commander of the American Legion to serve under the leadership of National Commander Miles S. Epling of West Virginia.

My assignment covered the 13 Western departments plus the Department of Philippines. Those 13 Western departments are the following:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Alaska | 4. Oregon |
| 2. Hawaii | 5. Montana |
| 3. Washington | 6. Wyoming |

7. Colorado
8. New Mexico
9. California
10. Nevada

11. Utah
12. Arizona
13. Idaho

I made an official visit to all the departments assigned to me with the exception of the Department of Philippines.

At the close of the convention in Baltimore, I attended a meeting of the National Executive Committee. Following that meeting, the national vice commanders met with National Commander Miles Epling, National Adjutant Robert Sponagle, and division chiefs of the national staff.

September 18-20, 1989, in Washington, DC: I attended briefings on current legislature matters by the legislative chairman. We also were briefed by the directors in the Washington, DC, office on National Security, Foreign Relations, VA & R, Economics, and functions of the Public Relations office in Washington.

September 25-26, 1989, at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis: We had brainstorming sessions with Internal Affairs and membership personnel.

September 29-October 1, 1989: I attended the Region 8 National Leadership Workshop in Cody, Wyoming, with former National Commander Dale Renaud.

October 6-8, 1989: I had the pleasure of opening the Region 7 National Leadership Workshop with former National Commander H.F. "Sparky" Gierke.

October 13-15, 1989: Homecoming for National Commander Miles S. Epling in Huntington, West Virginia.

October 14-19, 1989: Fall conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

November 3-5, 1989: Fall conference, Department of Montana, Helena, Montana.

November 17-18, 1989: Membership promotion in Boise, Idaho.

It was gratifying to see legionnaires throughout the state of Idaho assemble in Boise to make up a food convoy for the State Veteran's Nursing Facility in Boise, donating more than \$35,000 in food.

January 5-7, 1990, Mid-year Conference: Department of Oregon, Lebanon, Oregon.

January 13-14, 1990, Mid-year Conference: Department of Wyoming, Gillette, Wyoming.

January 18-19, 1990, Mid-year Conference: Department of Idaho, Boise, Idaho.

January 27-28, 1990, Membership Promotion: Department of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

February 3, 1990, Membership Workshop: Department of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii.

February 9-11, 1990, Mid-winter Conference: Department of New Mexico, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

February 25-28, 1990, Washington Conference: Washington, DC.

March 8-10, 1990, Western District Convention: Department of Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska.

March 11-12, 1990: Along with Commander John Fitzsimons and Adjutant Warren Colver, I presented a new flag to Alaska State Troopers Headquarters and was able to visit American Legion Posts in Anchorage, Palmer, Walisla, and Peters Creek, Alaska.

April 9-13, 1990: Accompanied National Commander Miles Epling on his official visit to Colorado.

May 11-12, 1990, Department Leadership Conference: Colorado Springs, Colorado.

May 28, 1990: Presented the top academic award to Cadet Brittany J. Thurber of Beaverton, Oregon, for the class of 1990 at the US Air Force Academy, Colorado.

June 11-12, 1990: Colorado Girls' State, Gunnison, Colorado. Colorado Boys' State, Pueblo, Colorado.

June 14, 1990: Participated in Flag Day Ceremony, Denver, Colorado.

June 21-24, 1990: Department of California Convention at Redding, California.

June 29-July 1, 1990: Department of Nevada. Convention at Hawthorne, Nevada.

July 20-22, 1990: Department of Washington. Convention at Vancouver, Washington.

Our membership goal was 323,876. The following six departments have met their quota:

1. Philippines
2. Oregon
3. Alaska

4. New Mexico
5. Utah
6. Nevada

Four departments were over 100 percent. However, with DMS all departments are over 100 percent.

This has been a very busy and exciting year for me. It has been a privilege to represent the American Legion in the Western states and to serve on the team with

National Commander Miles Epling and National Vice Commanders Vincent E. Blank, IA; Joseph E. Caouette, NH; Andrew J. Cooper, AL; and Gerald Goetzinger, SD.

It has been a pleasure working with the National staff, who were most supportive.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

LYNN S. KEARSLEY, Idaho

One of the great experiences that has come my way has been to serve my God, my country, and my fellow legionnaires as the National Chaplain for the year 1989-1990. On September 7, 1989, in Baltimore, I was given the distinct honor, and honor it is for me, a lay chaplain, to represent the small department of Idaho in this most important assignment.

For every right there is a responsibility; for every privilege there is an obligation. With my appointment came the right to represent, on the national level, all legionnaires, and with that right I felt the keen responsibility to do the very best I could. The humble obligation I assumed for that privilege gave me cause to reflect seriously on how best I might serve.

Some have asked which of all the experiences I have had was the highlight of the year. This is difficult to say, and space will not permit me to list all of them, and to list them in order of importance would be improper for each had its own respective role to play in the year's activities. But my book of remembrance lists a few of them. To get better acquainted with the staff at national headquarters gave me a better insight into their responsibilities in keeping the wheels of our organization turning. National adjutant Bob Spanogle, and all of his staff were so kind and helpful.

To serve with Commander Epling was choice. I attended his homecoming in West Virginia, where his busy schedule kept him occupied, but his visit to Idaho for my reception and homecoming gave time for intimate conversation, and generated a deep feeling of comradeship with him. His dedication to the welfare of all veterans was evident on every side. Most see the serious side of his personality, but his sense of humor brought everyone to know that even with all of the stress of his office, he had time to relax and fellowship with all of us.

The monthly Chaplain's column in ACT was a challenge to prepare. Much research was done on the material and it paid large dividends. The phone calls, the letters, the verbal expressions of "Thanks" made all of my efforts worthwhile.

Attending Boys State in my own state was exciting and then to attend Boys Nation with my wife was rewarding. Ruth is the only woman in Idaho to attend both Girls Nation and Boys Nation. To participate in laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Arlington Cemetery was a choice experience. The sacred atmosphere of that hallowed spot brings a feeling of peace to one's heart. And to place a wreath on the tomb brought tears of gratitude for all of our departed comrades.

Prior commitment to my own post on Memorial Day kept me from dedicating the official tombstone of one of Idaho's Medal of Honor recipients. The invitation to do so came as an honor, though regretfully I had to decline.

The most fulfilling of this year's experiences would have to be the invitation I received from a neighboring post commander to visit one of his house-bound members. I traveled 25 miles to spend an hour with Bob Keith, confined to his bed. Tears seemed more appropriate and much easier to come by than words, as we built up each other's spirits. I came away from that visit with greater appreciation for my good health and a greater concern for our comrades who have little else than time to look forward to.

The final activities of this year culminated with the National Convention in our headquarters city of Indianapolis the last week of August. I have a philosophy that says: "It takes a right good meeting to beat no meeting at all." I believe when others are invited to attend, there ought to be something special for them when they get there. Special music was rendered along with a timely message at the Chaplain's breakfast on Sunday morning. Along with some good fellowship, this gave all of us a spiritual uplift.

The memorial service late that morning was attended by many legionnaires and auxiliary members. It was an honor to arrange for and participate in that great gathering. And then to call upon the Lord in prayer, representing all legionnaires in attendance, asking His blessing and inspiration on the general sessions the following days had to fulfill all of my expectations. It was a great year and my thanks go out to any and all who made it possible and enjoyable.

For God and Country, I belong to the American Legion.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIAN

C. CARL PILGRIM, South Carolina

Legion year 1990 began at the National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 1, 1989, through September 7, 1989, at which time I was appointed and confirmed as National Historian.

On returning home from Baltimore, I participated in the Region 3 Conference, which was held in Charleston, South Carolina, on September 15th through September 17, 1989. Past Commander Jimmy Dean presided and directed this conference, which was a very informative and educational event.

I was asked to meet with the 7th District in Greenville, South Carolina, on October 5, 1989, where an informative training session and meeting was held. On the 11th of October I went to Columbia and the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina to review the destruction of Hurricane Hugo, which took its toll of homes, property, and timberland through this area.

Leaving there, I flew to West Virginia to the Homecoming of National Commander Miles S. Epling, where we enjoyed banquets, entertainment, tours of beautiful surrounding areas, and met with the family and friends of Commander Epling. Enjoyed a bus tour on October 15th from the Homecoming to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the conference where I became familiar with National Headquarters and my duties for the year and was briefed by Mr. Joseph Hovish and his staff. I attended the Executive Committee session held during this conference.

From Indianapolis I went back to South Carolina where I have participated in speaking engagements on our flag, programs of The American Legion, and promoted the activities of the entire Legion program.

On December 1, 1989, I attended the Fall Conference of The South Carolina American Legion held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where I participated on the program at this function. During the month of December, I participated in a number of Christmas parades and events held by veteran's organizations, as well as The American Legion, where we had a chance to present The American Legion's ideas and position of the flag and other vital issues before our nation and the organization.

In January 1990 we participated in veteran's programs at two Veteran's Administration hospitals and a Veteran's Administration Outpatient Clinic.

On February 25th I flew to Washington, DC for the Mid-winter Conference where I attended the functions sponsored by National and visited Capitol Hill talking and explaining our views to my own Congressman and Senators, as well as others, on the flag issue and the budget problems for the VA Medical Centers.

On March 27th I attended the Spring Rally of The American Legion in Columbia, South Carolina where National Commander Epling addressed the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina and participated in two days of R&R at Wampee Recreation Center on Santee Cooper, honoring Commander Epling.

The month of June I spent in Europe. In Germany I had the opportunity to talk with many service members who were serving in Germany and I had the opportunity to tell The American Legion story to many of these young soldiers and what The American Legion stood for and has done for veterans over the years and the benefits The American Legion still fights for. Benefits for ex-military people, as well as the widows and children of veterans.

It has been a pleasure to serve in this highly honored position during the past year. I look forward to working with and for The American Legion and its programs for many years to come.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

P.B. ONDERDONK, JR.

CONTRACTS

The following 66 contracts have been reviewed or prepared:

(1) Articles of Agreement by and between The American Legion and the American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona, covering the convocation of

the 1991 National Convention of The American Legion in the City of Phoenix, State of Arizona.

(2) Letter Agreement by and between The American Legion and Downie Productions, Inc., said company to conduct an opening ceremony program on August 28, 1990, at the 1990 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(3) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Downie Productions, Inc., said company to conduct a festival on August 25, 1990, consisting of entertainment, food and beverages, at the 1990 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(4) Contract by and between The American Legion and Hardee's Food Systems, Inc., wherein Hardee's Food Systems, Inc. agrees to sell food and beverages during The American Legion Festival on Saturday, August 25, 1990 and during The American Legion Parade on Sunday, August 26, 1990.

(5) Two (2) agreements by and between The American Legion and Delta Air Lines, Inc. and United Airlines, wherein Delta Air Lines, Inc. and United Airlines agree to provide special fares to the attendees of the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(6) Letter Agreement by and between The American Legion and Kreative Concepts & Designs, covering the building and operating of The American Legion Parade Float for the 1990 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade and the American Legion National Convention Parade.

(7) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Cincom Systems, Inc., for use of proprietary computer software programs and systems (NCR VRX Total Central), and support services including installation, education, guidance, and assistance regarding the systems.

(8) Three (3) agreements, by and between The American Legion and Computer Systems Consultants, Inc., wherein Computer Systems Consultants, Inc. agrees to provide technical assistance to The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and Price Waterhouse in the redesign of the base software for a Membership Management Information System; the other two for modifications and enhancements.

(9) Two (2) contracts by and between The American Legion and Price Waterhouse for the remaining phases of the Membership Management Information System for The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

(10) Agreements by and between The American Legion and IBM wherein The American Legion agrees to purchase certain computer equipment and IBM agrees to provide maintenance services, operational services, security and financial options for certain equipment owned by The American Legion and the purchase of IBM licensed programs.

(11) Contract and Maintenance Agreements between The American Legion and Scan-Optics, Inc. for the purchase of scanning equipment.

(12) Agreement by and between The American Legion and ESPN for television rights for the 1990 American Legion Baseball World Series.

(13) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Creative Sports Marketing to produce the televising of the final game of the 1990 American Legion Baseball World Series.

(14) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Gatorade (Stokely-Van Camp, Inc.) to provide scholarship money for scholarships for the most valuable player at the eight (8) Regional Baseball Tournaments and The American Legion Baseball World Series.

(15) Nine (9) contracts for eight (8) Baseball Regional Tournaments and The American Legion Baseball World Series.

(16) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Northwest Mobile Television, wherein Northwest Mobile Television will furnish production facilities and technical crew for The American Legion World Series Championship Game on Sunday, August 26, 1990 at Taylor Field, Corvallis, Oregon.

(17) Agreement with MCA Records, Inc. for use of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless The U.S.A." video.

(18) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc., wherein Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc. will establish on a test basis a 900 response support for the anti-flag desecration campaign.

(19) Trust Agreement by and between The American Legion and Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc., wherein The American Legion as Settlor grants to Trustees (Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc. and Promotion Management, Inc.) the right to hold certain of the Settlor's assets including, without implied limitation, checks, notes, negotiable instruments, pledges and correspondence, whereby the Trustees will perform certain services on behalf of the Settlor.

(20) Statement of Understanding by and between The American Legion Education Program and the National College Services, Ltd., wherein the National College Services, Ltd. agrees to participate in the development of content to be included in American Legion publications and a college profile directory.

(21) Two (2) contracts, one by and between The American Legion and Indiana National Bank, and the other between Indiana National Bank and United Student Aid Funds, both for The American Legion Student Loan Program.

(22) Two (2) Leases by and between The American Legion and Park Fletcher, Inc., and Duke Associates for lease of approximately 15,000 square feet of outside space for a computer center.

(23) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Eye Care Plan of America, wherein Eye Care Plan of America will offer to Legion members sale of memberships in an eye care plan at wholesale prices plus a professional dispensing fee, including a discount of 15% on contact lenses and eyewear accessories.

(24) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Quality Inns International and renewal of an Agreement by and between The American Legion and Regal Inns wherein The American Legion members are offered certain discounts for lodging.

(25) Service Contract by and between The American Legion and United Parcel Service.

(26) Trust Agreement by and between The American Legion and Robert F. Zinko, wherein Robert F. Zinko has agreed to assume responsibility for protecting, safeguarding and preserving the archives of the Drum & Bugle Corporation competitions.

(27) Renewal lease by and between The American Legion and the State of Indiana for the National Headquarters Building at 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

(28) Agreement by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Rollins Burdick Hunter Company for administration of the American Legion Auxiliary long term insurance plan.

(29) Five (5) List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company
Rollins Burdick Hunter
Associated Group Insurance Administrators (AGIA)
Brick Mill Studios, Inc.
Famous Artists Studios, Inc.

(30) Eleven (11) Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Bacompt Systems, Inc.
Dyna Mark, Inc.
S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.
United Mailing
PGI Companies
U.S.A. Direct
Group I Software
First American Health Concepts, Inc.
Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc.; Promotion Management, Inc.
Sedgwick James of Missouri, Inc.
Access Research, Inc.

LITIGATION

Civil No. s84-0500

Litigation styled:

STEPHEN S. MAROZSAN

vs.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL

On August 30, 1984, The American Legion received service by certified mail from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. A Motion to

dismiss for improper service, lack of jurisdiction and failure to state a proper claim was filed.

Plaintiff claimed that The American Legion gave false testimony to Congress on the subject of judicial review of veterans' claims before the Veterans Administration and that a case in California dealing with the \$10.00 limitation of attorney's fees in cases before the Veterans Administration supports his claim. Plaintiff appeared pro se and appeared to be somewhat confused. The case has been dismissed as to The American Legion in response to the Motion filed by The American Legion. Later the Federal Defendants were granted Summary Judgment. Plaintiff appealed. This appeal only covered the Summary Judgment. The District Court was affirmed in part and reversed in part and the case remanded to the District Court in July, 1988. We will continue to watch the case. The file will be closed and the case treated as closed by The American Legion unless something further develops.

Litigation styled:

FOOTE & DAVIES, INC., PLAINTIFF

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, Defendant/Third Party, PLAINTIFF

vs.

HOWARD COHEN, d/b/a Better Times Magazine, THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT

The case began in 1985 when Foote & Davies sued The American Legion claiming The American Legion was responsible for the debts of Howard Cohen. An answer was filed and the case has been vigorously defended since The American Legion never assumed liability for Mr. Cohen's debts. Extensive discovery was held.

As part of the case, The American Legion joined Mr. Cohen as a Third Party Defendant. Mr. Cohen answered and later attempted to file a massive counterclaim. This counterclaim was dismissed by the Court. In addition, the Court issued an order indicating that numerous individuals need not answer Mr. Cohen's lengthy and irrelevant interrogatories. At the same time the Court issued an order requiring Mr. Cohen to answer the interrogatories directed to him by The American Legion. The Court further granted to The American Legion fees and costs for the necessity of obtaining the discovery orders. The case is proceeding. The response by those who subscribed has resulted in about 550 claims. Refunds of 100% of subscribers' funds are in process pursuant to the authorization of the Court. The funds were obtained from the Defendants in "*The American Legion vs. Caging Corp. of America*," *Infra*. A Summary Judgment motion was filed. This was denied because the Judge said there must be a fact issue in the huge file. An interlocutory appeal was requested from and granted by both the Trial Court and Appellate Court. The Court of Appeals found for The American Legion unanimously. Foote and Davies appealed to the Georgia Supreme Court which also found for The American Legion unanimously. The case is closed.

Case No.: 87-18344 CL

Litigation styled:

HOWARD COHEN, d/b/a Better Times Magazine, PLAINTIFF

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, a foreign not for profit corporation, RICHARD WOOTEN, ROBERT W. SPANOGL, and MARINE LEARNING INSTITUTE, a foreign not for profit corporation, DEFENDANTS

The Plaintiff filed a case alleging innumerable acts by The American Legion and other Defendants. Basically, he attempted to blame others for what he did. Despite the fact that he was "sworn" to the Complaint, he mistated, omitted and twisted many facts. Since the issues he tried to raise are the same ones that were dismissed in the Georgia case, he had to know the true state of facts.

The answer and motions of The American Legion for Summary Judgment were filed. The motions were granted. Mr. Cohen appealed. Under oral argument, the Appellate Court affirmed the Lower Court June 28, 1989. This decision has become final. Now that the Foote and Davies case is over, this file too has been closed.

Civil Action No. 36-3336 (Hon. Alfred J. Lechner)

Litigation styled:

GEORGE NAPIER, SR., PLAINTIFF

vs.

THIRTY OR MORE UNIDENTIFIED FEDERAL AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR OFFICERS,
VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION, ET AL., DEFENDANTS

In this case Plaintiff seeks damages for mental injuries caused by service in a segregated unit in 1944 and bad advice from The American Legion service representative in 1946. We are unable to locate any evidence that The American Legion ever advised Plaintiff. Plaintiff had sued the United States twice before on the case issues and had been dismissed. Plaintiff was really seeking to obtain judicial review for his veteran's claim.

At a hearing the Judge dismissed The American Legion on its motion and granted our request for \$17,000.00 in sanctions against Plaintiff's attorney who has appealed this portion of the Order. In the meantime, payment has been made to our attorney who is holding the funds in escrow pending completion of the appeal. The appeal has been argued. The Third Circuit Court affirmed the dismissal but remanded on the sanctions saying, 1. The American Legion should have copied the government's brief (the record showed the government copied our brief), 2. No proof of ability to pay existed (the record clearly showed the ability) and, 3. The American Legion should have limited its case to the improper service and not also moved on the merits even though the service argument would have allowed the Plaintiff to renew an argument on the merits and not ended the case. The fee question was settled for \$10,500.00. The case is now closed.

Case No. H88-730

Litigation styled:

ROBERT H. LEMERE, PLAINTIFF

vs.

UNITED STATES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION; AMERICAN LEGION; PAL POBUDA;
WILLIAM STOCKWELL; DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS; JOHN BENDORAITIS, DEFENDANT

This case began in the Connecticut Federal Court, November 1, 1988. The Plaintiff seeks damages from the Veterans Administration, The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and three Service Officers. The veteran claimed service connected disability (which has increased and decreased at various times) through various Service Officers. In March, 1985, the Veterans Administration ruled against Plaintiff on his more recent filing. The American Legion answered the questions from Senator Weicker.

The Plaintiff alleges that The American Legion failed to represent him during a period in which he had revoked his Power of Attorney with The American Legion. Plaintiff also claimed that The American Legion's representative refused to talk to him about his case during a District meeting when the Service Officer was out of the office, his file was not available, and such discussions would have risked the disclosure of private information.

The American Legion has filed a motion to dismiss, which is pending. Our insurance company claims that insurance for or against Plaintiff's claim for punitive damages is against the public policy of the State of Connecticut and that the acts complained of are intentional. It also cites a case on employee benefits. The Plaintiff clearly has never been employed by The American Legion or any of its Departments or Posts. A letter has been sent to the Insurance Company protesting this bad faith in denial of coverage. A Motion for summary judgment was filed and argued. The

Court dismissed the case. The Plaintiff did not have the assets to justify a claim for sanctions. The case is closed.

Litigation styled:

State of New York: Supreme Court; County of Otsego

RUTH MANDIGO, Individually and as Parent and Natural Guardian of REBECCA MANDIGO, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

THE VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK; PETER SALMON; AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF STATE, INC.; WATERTOWN ARMY AND NAVY POST No. 61, AMERICAN LEGION OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK, INC.; ROBERT HALL; CHARLES COLLIER; LEONARD JACKSON; JAMES DELANEY; FREDERICK SOVIE; and ANTHONY PERRITANO, DEFENDANTS

FREDERICK SOVIE, DEFENDANT AND THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF

vs.

THOMAS QUACKENBUSH of 360 Main Street, Fort Plain, Montgomery County, New York; BARNEY PELAN of 81 Gerard Avenue, New Hyde Park, Nassau County, New York and THE AMERICAN LEGION, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206, THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANTS

RUTH MANDIGO, Individually and as Parent and Natural Guardian of REBECCA MANDIGO

vs.

THE VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK; PETER SALMON, AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, INC., WATERTOWN ARMY AND NAVY POST No. 61, AMERICAN LEGION OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK, INC., ROBERT HALL, CHARLES COLLIER, LEONARD JACKSON, JAMES DELANEY, FREDERICK SOVIE and ANTHONY PERRITANO, DEFENDANTS

SCOTTSDALE INSURANCE COMPANY, PLAINTIFF

vs.

RUTH MANDIGO, Individually and as Parent and Natural Guardian of REBECCA MANDIGO; THE VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK; PETER SALMON; AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF STATE, INC.; WATERTOWN ARMY AND NAVY POST No. 61, AMERICAN LEGION OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK, INC.; ROBERT HALL; CHARLES COLLIER; LEONARD JACKSON; JAMES DELANEY; FREDERICK SOVIE; ANTHONY PERRITANO, and DAVID MANDIGO, DEFENDANTS

This is a complex matter. The American Legion has been brought in by three Third-Party Complaints. It is easier to understand the situation if the history of the case is summarized without regard to these Third-Party Complaints.

In 1985 at the New York Department Baseball Tournament a young girl, Rebecca Mandigo, was serving as a bat girl for one of the baseball teams. She ran in front of the on-deck player to recover a bat just as the on-deck batter took a practice swing. The blow crushed the girl's skull. She was in a lengthy coma and permanent damage is alleged. She was not wearing protective head gear. The Post paid all the medical expenses for the girl's hospital stay. Within the statute of limitations the girl's mother sued the Post, the team and umpires, the manager and coaches, the on-deck batter, Department of New York and the owner of the stadium. This included her husband. This is allowed under New York law. A number of cross-claims and

third-party claims were filed by the various defendants. The National Organization was not a named party or part of the early part of the case.

The team and individuals were, supposedly insured by Scottsdale Insurance through a policy approved by the National Organization. Unknown to the National Organization the insurance company refused coverage to all defendants, forcing the individuals to rely on their homeowners policies. The insurance company further filed a declaratory coverage suit contesting coverage. It did not inform the National Organization of this declaratory judgment suit, all defendants, except the Department, are additional named insureds. The National Organization is the named insured on the policy. When rumors of the situation arrived at National Headquarters, the insurance company was questioned. It denied its refusal of coverage and denied that it had filed a Declaratory Judgment.

All this came to light as the three captioned third-party complaints were received at National Headquarters. Accordingly, counsel was retained in the name of The American Legion. Counsel's bills will be paid by The American Legion which will then seek reimbursement from Scottsdale Insurance. Scottsdale reluctantly agreed to defend The American Legion in the Third-Party Complaint and made verbal representations of coverage and that it would attempt to settle the case. The American Legion filed Motions to Dismiss and/or Summary Judgment that it was not responsible for the Department Tournament and was not involved in same. The American Legion intervened in the Declaratory Judgment action. The case was thereupon settled and the declaratory judgment action dismissed. The case is closed.

Litigation styled:

In the District Court of Hopkins County, Texas, — Judicial District

DOUGLAS M. PEDDY, individually and as Executor of the estate of KELLY CHEYEEN
PEDDY, deceased, ET AL

VS.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, ET AL

In this case Plaintiff has sued two (2) American Legion Posts, the Department of Texas and The American Legion claiming that Kelly Peddy was killed in an automobile accident caused by an individual who drank at either or both of the Legion's Posts, got into his car and drove into an automobile accident. The Motion for Summary Judgment has been drafted with all supporting affidavits and exhibits and will be presented as soon as the plaintiff's arguments are delineated by discovery.

Cause No. 18001-8912 CP-137

Litigation styled:

In the Delaware Superior Court

THE ESTATE OF RALPH L. SMITH, deceased, TAMMY SMITH, Executrix, PLAINTIFF

VS.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AMERICAN LEGION POST 446 A/K/A JOHN F. HURLEY LEGION, HERMAN A. WILSON, COMMANDER and CINDY MARTENDALE

This is a suit in Indiana alleging dram shop liability on an American Legion post and the National Organization, but not the Department, claiming that Ralph Smith died at a Legion Post when he fell off a bar stool and subsequently died. The plaintiff claims that the National Organization and Post are responsible and seeks compensatory and punitive damages. The matter has been referred to the insurance company. Summary judgment motion will be filed if plaintiff's attorney does not agree to dismiss The American Legion. Incidentally, the Post named in the complaint is not the Post at which the incident occurred.

Civil Action—Law No. CV-89-1131

Litigation styled:

PHYLLIS K. REED, Executrix of the estate of James W. Reed and PHYLLIS K. REED on behalf of surviving children, PLAINTIFF

vs.

REGUL TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY, J.H. HEAFNER, INC., UNI-ROYAL GOODRICH TIRE COMPANY, UGTC, INC., UNI-ROYAL TIRE COMPANY, INC., AMERICAN LEGION, SLATE RIDGE POST No. 182, AMERICAN LEGION, and THOMAS MORRIS, THIRD PARTY DEFENDANTS

This is a dram shop case filed in Pennsylvania involving a Post in Maryland, The American Legion and a number of tire companies. Here again the Department was not named.

Plaintiff alleges that a Sons of the American Legion member drank at the Post, drove into Pennsylvania, caused an automobile accident in which James Reed died. The motion for summary judgment was filed. I point out that the American Legion had no responsibility for the operation of the Post. The Court took the motion for summary judgment under advisement and ultimately dismissed the earlier case on the motion of the plaintiff. We assume that the Post and its insurance company and the tire company resolved the matter. The case is now closed.

OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

There are a number of other legal proceedings in which The American Legion has been contacted for discovery purposes which are not part of or named in the particular cause and a number of cases are in the beginning stages but not yet filed.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

Opinions Rendered

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 1,329 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of the American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, Articles of Incorporation, civil rights statutes, retirement benefits under the law and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion, policy matters, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research.

In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their Department; National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers, and to staff Directors of the national organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 56 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed all manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine, for the purpose of expunging statements or material questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 156 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Publisher or Editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Firing Line

At the 1955 National Convention of The American Legion it was concluded that all statements made in each issue of the Firing Line should be documented and that the National Judge Advocate should approve each issue prior to publication in order to protect The American Legion from actions in libel. In accordance therewith all issues have been reviewed and either approved by the National Judge Advocate prior to publication, or rejected in whole or in part, with appropriate comments.

Employees' Salary Savings (401(k)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) the office of the National Judge Advocate has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1988 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Employees' Salary Savings (401(k)) Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law. Amendments to comply with the Tax Reform Act of 1986 have been completed, filed and accepted. A Summary Plan Description has been distributed.

Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of The American Legion and all meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

Meetings of the National Retirement Committee and Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate, as a member of the National Retirement Committee on National Headquarters, The American Legion, and Chairman of the Employees' Salary Savings Committee, has attended and participated in all meetings held by these committees during the past year.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers of The American Legion and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Last, during the past year I have met with and attended numerous conferences with officials or outside corporations, for the purpose of representation of for the rendering of advice and guidance for and on behalf of The American Legion on matters legal and administrative.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department Officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. ONDERDONK, Jr.,
National Judge Advocate.

TABLE NO. 1

	Region and Department	Region Legion	Region Auxiliary	Temporary Financial Assistance by National	Contributions To Child Welfare Foundation By Pots & Units	Direct Aid From Pots, Units And Departments	Contributions To Other Child Serving Agencies By Legion And Auxiliary	Other Expenditures For Children By Legion And Auxiliary	Department Administrative Expense By Legion And Auxiliary	Total Aid For Children From 8/40	Total Number Of Children Served Nationally	Total Aid Legion And Auxiliary Lines 4 thru 10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
REG. 1												
CT	57%	100%		-	\$2,039	\$48,308	\$104,534	\$338,272	\$125	\$979	4,755	\$494,257
ME	100%	0%	\$1,900		676	28,757	88,249	178,727	800	1,618	5,580	300,727
MA	34%	100%		850	5,569	98,568	236,493	484,770	275	5,102	40,009	831,627
NH	82%	100%		4,159	4,303	65,680	99,700	331,134	75	1,159	17,338	506,210
RI	62%	100%		-	65	56,643	32,186	68,280	1,657	272	5,402	159,103
VT	100%	100%		-	2,771	75,915	85,852	369,236	400	419	21,550	534,593
TOTAL	65%	78%	6,989	15,423	73,871	647,814	1,778,419	3,332	9,549	94,634	2,826,517	
REG. 2												
DE	100%	100%		6,398	1,099	12,349	7,058	45,911	150	(2)	13,313	72,965
D.C.	45%	67%		-	175	2,207	3,750	1,035	1,350	550	676	11,067
MD	79%	84%		600	3,865	537,707	1,851,275	1,827,579	1,505	6,346	65,465	4,232,377
NJ	50%	100%		200	3,829	74,097	104,262	354,380	2,650	6,792	29,466	546,210
NY	100%	67%		1,200	7,196	467,796	1,089,383	1,363,661	22,500	13,358	158,974	2,965,094
PA	70%	100%		2,200	5,135	301,671	321,225	1,070,525	60,700	11,887	53,168	1,773,343
VA	74%	100%		2,272	3,432	237,787	506,508	660,711	1,985	1,955	29,226	1,414,650
WV	72%	31%		-	1,058	87,014	160,322	296,323	5,000	1,467	25,735	551,184
TOTAL	78%	84%	12,878	25,789	1,728,628	4,843,783	5,622,125	95,940	42,355	376,023	11,566,890	
REG. 3												
AL	41%	54%		2,627	5,584	75,224	106,112	206,425	1,865	195	25,467	398,032
FL	100%	100%		1,486	19,237	315,345	260,002	873,203	3,886	9,559	321,175	1,482,718
GA	43%	46%		-	3,226	268,811	153,723	342,203	250	(2)	58,685	768,213
KY	73%	49%		2,950	2,561	234,440	289,122	171,055	486	121	12,898	700,735
NC	31%	40%		2,066	3,029	76,695	110,313	107,525	2,063	(2)	66,914	501,894
SC	18%	21%		-	1,085	22,415	52,170	122,857	-	(2)	3,974	198,507
TN	51%	36%		6,677	1,276	85,748	78,524	260,549	29,500	5	21,718	462,279
TOTAL	53%	54%	15,886	35,978	1,878,678	1,849,966	2,284,828	38,058	9,880	510,831	4,512,378	
REG. 4												
AR	2%	16%		3,035	989	13,650	2,117	8,881	-	3,176	101,480	31,848
LA	40%	100%		700	2,604	142,336	163,299	450,494	8,100	13,774	81,445	781,307
MS	69%	56%		1,937	1,299	45,918	202,097	635,513	530	305	21,878	457,559
OK	39%	100%		6,803	2,097	137,538	86,096	634,441	4,213	1,565	30,147	872,753
TX	33%	0%		-	-	-	775,638	772,752	500	2,581	18,040	1,774,624
TOTAL	34%	68%	12,475	16,347	583,197	1,229,247	2,872,881	13,343	21,481	252,990	3,918,091	
REG. 5												
IL	37%	68%		1,600	9,944	224,328	233,176	620,933	5,543	22,849	130,740	1,118,373
IN	59%	71%		13,097	5,424	158,475	301,109	386,594	1,500	4,839	32,685	871,378
MI	58%	90%		-	8,124	403,295	175,161	520,441	1,500	7,314	46,303	1,115,835
MO	38%	80%		300	4,555	115,968	259,542	482,359	-	6,552	18,260	869,276
OH	77%	61%		1,275	6,285	318,517	700,173	1,154,564	-	17,561	165,768	2,198,375
WI	100%	100%		1,187	5,939	97,149	238,944	851,315	32,200	(2)	238,995	1,226,734
TOTAL	59%	77%	17,459	40,271	1,317,732	1,988,185	4,816,546	46,743	59,115	632,751	7,999,971	
REG. 6												
IA	62%	84%		-	1,561	57,434	361,249	680,405	3,218	(2)	22,373	1,103,867
KS	67%	94%		1,004	6,795	67,668	68,347	356,205	2,150	6,946	19,559	509,115
MN	53%	93%		1,890	21,559	512,410	1,709,202	4,874,491	13,129	209	269,660	7,130,890
NE	59%	88%		-	1,099	37,052	87,424	584,105	5,800	2,631	46,144	720,111
ND	100%	91%		700	1,569	74,887	204,757	882,271	5,000	(2)	21,533	1,169,184
SD	54%	89%		-	971	23,892	45,394	242,428	1,505	1,441	23,427	315,631
TOTAL	63%	98%	3,994	35,554	773,343	2,476,373	7,617,985	30,882	11,227	402,996	18,946,798	
REG. 7												
AZ	71%	56%		12,306	2,429	131,979	195,169	209,273	2,200	5,412	46,439	558,768
CA	42%	100%		400	11,088	348,350	463,860	1,426,816	758	23,604	311,075	2,274,876
CO	50%	100%		1,235	2,774	151,833	95,923	295,744	249	1,976	26,192	539,734
HI	48%	71%		-	285	3,375	20,078	19,993	-	135	2,168	43,866
NV	39%	43%		-	175	1,975	4,806	26,876	-	153	26,496	33,985
NM	39%	37%		4,489	1,704	39,855	42,258	106,179	2,555	10,558	24,832	207,598
UT	100%	100%		1,109	711	120,410	27,493	77,907	138	2,077	6,085	229,845
TOTAL	58%	88%	19,539	19,166	797,777	839,587	2,162,788	5,980	43,915	443,287	3,888,672	
REG. 8												
AK	60%	67%		-	580	54,321	76,864	159,678	1,500	3,524	8,419	296,467
ID	50%	66%		3,417	1,154	8,424	44,292	129,727	-	377	4,662	187,391
MT	74%	72%		-	975	49,860	22,768	113,877	60	1,016	18,817	188,556
OR	59%	100%		681	1,646	77,997	65,244	152,973	550	23,765	48,734	322,856
WA	54%	82%		1,760	5,523	38,041	70,303	164,225	1,581	9,526	17,181	290,959
WY	69%	67%		-	1,842	21,731	31,192	216,463	-	214	20,323	277,442
TOTAL	68%	79%	5,858	11,729	258,374	318,663	936,943	3,691	30,422	118,136	1,557,671	
REG. TOTALS												
FOREIGN												
Canada	8%	0%	-	-	117	-	-	-	-	(2)	4	117
France	36%	0%	-	-	-	10,506	10,709	8,773	-	(2)	1,874	29,988
Mexico	0%	0%	-	-	5	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	5
Philippines	0%	0%	-	-	50	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	-
Italy	0%	0%	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	-
Panama	0%	0%	-	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	-
Puerto Rico	1%	0%	3,700	-	245	1,660	760	760	500	(2)	165	6,865
Total-Foreign	4%	0%	3,700	172	10,751	12,369	9,553	9,553	980	(8)	2,843	37,825
SUBTOTAL	58%	76%	\$ 98,210	\$298,428	\$6,876,351	\$12,517,107	\$26,492,360	\$235,791	\$235,864	\$2,833,691	\$46,656,813	

(1) No report submitted
(2) Not organized in the Department

Add
Contributed to Child Welfare Foundation by National Legion 1,266
Child Welfare Foundation by National Auxiliary 10,465
Children & Youth Division by National Auxiliary 20,000
Child Welfare Foundation by National Eight and Forty 1,548
Children & Youth Division by National Eight and Forty 3,500
Other children programs by National Eight and Forty 4,926
Child Welfare Foundation by individuals 10,103
Requests to Child Welfare Foundation 543
C.W.F. by Sons of The American Legion 50,342
GRAND TOTAL \$46,766,786

TABLE #1 REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE 1, 1989 - MAY 31, 1990

TABLE NO. 3

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WW II, KOREAN,
VIETNAM AND WORLD WAR I VETERANS RECEIVING AID
FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION

	No. WW II Children	No. Korean Children	No. Vietnam Children	No. WW I Children
6-1-89 to 5-31-90	7 (1.09%)	49 (7.62%)	587 (91.29%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-88 to 5-31-89	16 (2.35%)	61 (8.94%)	605 (88.71%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-87 to 5-31-88	41 (6.65%)	68 (10.97%)	510 (82.38%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-86 to 5-31-87	28 (4.60%)	60 (9.85%)	521 (85.55%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-85 to 5-31-86	29 (4.54%)	114 (17.84%)	496 (77.62%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-84 to 5-31-85	57 (9.27%)	114 (18.53%)	444 (72.16%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-83 to 5-31-84	56 (8.8%)	125 (19.60%)	457 (71.60%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-82 to 5-31-83	40 (5.9%)	158 (23.30%)	480 (70.80%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-81 to 5-31-82	51 (14.36%)	90 (22.54%)	224 (63.10%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-80 to 5-31-81	65 (14.74%)	125 (28.34%)	251 (56.92%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-79 to 5-31-80	94 (21.81%)	58 (13.46%)	279 (64.73%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-78 to 5-31-79	111 (27.54%)	101 (25.06%)	191 (47.40%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-77 to 5-31-78	198 (30.33%)	215 (32.92%)	240 (36.75%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-76 to 5-31-77	216 (38.30%)	140 (24.82%)	208 (36.88%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-75 to 5-31-76	177 (29.70%)	233 (39.09%)	186 (31.21%)	3 (.57%)
6-1-74 to 5-31-75	189 (36.00%)	208 (39.62%)	218 (41.52%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-73 to 5-31-74	248 (36.69%)	334 (49.41%)	94 (13.90%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-72 to 5-31-73	204 (43.59%)	150 (32.05%)	114 (24.36%)	1 (.13%)
6-1-71 to 5-31-72	360 (46.15%)	309 (39.62%)	110 (14.10%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-69 to 5-31-70	749 (53.32%)	417 (39.00%)	82 (7.68%)	4 (.34%)
6-1-68 to 5-31-69	706 (61.49%)	414 (33.99%)	51 (4.18%)	3 (.27%)
6-1-67 to 5-31-68	875 (61.66%)	390 (34.06%)	46 (4.01%)	4 (.29%)
6-1-66 to 5-31-67	1,024 (64.02%)	463 (33.86%)	25 (1.83%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-65 to 5-31-66	1,147 (72.86%)	384 (27.06%)	11 (.08%)	1 (.07%)
6-1-64 to 5-31-65	1,091 (82.11%)	249 (17.82%)		2 (.15%)
6-1-63 to 5-31-64	1,099 (79.86%)	273 (19.99%)		1 (.07%)
6-1-62 to 5-31-63	1,077 (78.73%)	296 (21.20%)		8 (.61%)
6-1-61 to 5-31-62	1,329 (82.47%)	221 (16.92%)		10 (.62%)
6-1-60 to 5-31-61	1,716 (83.59%)	251 (15.79%)		15 (.74%)
6-1-59 to 5-31-60	2,536 (84.99%)	288 (14.27%)		53 (1.78%)
6-1-58 to 5-31-59	1,589 (85.16%)	389 (13.06%)		47 (2.47%)
5-1-57 to 5-31-58	2,050 (86.78%)	195 (10.65%)		39 (1.70%)
6-1-56 to 5-31-57	1,713 (89.32%)	206 (8.98%)		47 (2.47%)
6-1-55 to 5-31-56	1,579 (90.06%)	142 (7.47%)		118 (6.40%)
6-1-54 to 5-31-55	2,098 (85.68%)	146 (7.92%)		250 (10.05%)
5-1-53 to 5-31-54	2,519 (84.32%)	140 (5.63%)		238 (8.22%)
5-1-52 to 5-31-53	2,050 (87.12%)	135 (4.66%)		341 (14.03%)
5-1-51 to 4-30-52	1,481 (84.36%)	39 (1.61%)		290 (16.33%)
5-1-50 to 4-30-51	1,506 (83.39%)	5 (.28%)		265 (14.96%)
7-1-49 to 4-30-50	1,584 (85.04%)			435 (21.55%)
7-1-48 to 6-30-49	1,796 (78.45%)			665 (27.02%)
7-1-47 to 6-30-48	1,218 (72.98%)			1,090 (47.23%)
7-1-46 to 6-30-47	785 (52.77%)			1,006 (56.17%)
Prior to 7-1-46	590 (43.83%)			

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

WILLIAM D. JACKSON, Indiana, *Executive Director*

The Executive Director, whose office is located in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis, has four major responsibilities:

1) He performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the myriad responsibilities of that office, and during temporary absences of the National Adjutant from The American Legion National Headquarters, acts for him.

2) He heads the Administrative Services Division and through it supervises and coordinates the many administrative functions of the Indianapolis Headquarters.

3) He serves on the Personnel Committee of the Headquarters and is Chairman of the Management Review Board.

4) He coordinates computer operations, which has a MIS (Management Information Services) Director reporting to the Executive Director.

Included in the Administrative Services Division of the Indianapolis Headquarters are the following administrative functions: Purchasing, Shipping & Receiving, General Supply & Outgoing Mail; Library, Archives, and E.A. Blackmore Museum; Printing and Communications; Maintenance; Cafeteria; Human Resources; Finance; and Insurance.

The Administrative Services Division also provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of The American Legion.

MIS (Management Information Services)

MIS is currently responsible for the following programs:

Revenue Enhancement selections for mailings, maintenance of Data Base and reporting system.

Updating of *The American Legion Magazine*, Membership, SAL, Firing Line, Advance, Commanders and Adjutants file, Legislative Bulletin, and ALNS mailing lists, and printing of labels and renewal notices. Maintenance of the mailing lists for The American Legion Extension Institute, ACT, and the Veterans Economic Guardian.

Direct membership renewal notices and registers.

The printing of membership cards and registers, Department accounting reports, statistical information, Post questionnaire reports and Delinquent Member lists.

The printing of Department paper mailing labels.

PUFL members updating and financial checks.

Emblem Sales invoices and reports (mini-computer in Emblem Sales).

Audit control and circulation analysis report for *The American Legion Magazine*.

Inventory control and purchase order control of National Headquarters.

General ledger financial reports.

Accounts receivable.

Accounts payable.

Retirement Investment program.

Furniture and Fixtures Inventory and Depreciation reports.

Direct mail solicitation program.

National Commission and Committee list.

Post Office carrier route discount processing on all Department labels and Direct Billing.

Select and create disks for Department Member Roster for input to the Department computers. Select and provide Department Membership on microfiche.

Statistical Tables

The following statistical tables are indicative of the volume of work routinely performed by this Division:

Mail 6/1/89 through 5/31/90

Incoming Letters (Distributed to various Divisions for processing).....	8,069,406
Incoming Parcels	5,576
Outgoing Letters.....	301,240
Outgoing Parcels (Exclusive of National Emblem Sales)	8,191

Freight and Express 6/1/89 through 5/31/90

Out (Cartons).....	3,242
Out (Pounds).....	88,158

UPS (In).....	5,384
UPS (Out).....	14,347
Permit #719 (Outgoing).....	3,789,562

Printing and Communications 6/1/89 through 5/31/90

Envelopes & Labels Addressed	176,198
IBM Displaywriter	16,944
A/M Varityper/Processor.....	65,780
Binding.....	6,050
9400	2,364,922
1048	257,025
Reprographics Facility (Print Shop).....	9,733,665

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Library

JOSEPH J. HOVISH, *Librarian*

The mission of The American Legion Library is to provide an information storage and retrieval system for The American Legion.

The work with the Library's computer is showing many benefits. The tracking of correspondence by date, name(s), and various subjects makes more efficient the retrieving of letters, memos, and reports which are required by members of National Headquarters.

Correspondence contained in many filing cabinet drawers has been microfilmed. The material had not been discarded because the author of The American Legion history had been working with many of these documents. However, with the conclusion of the project, many filing cabinets will be eliminated in the near future.

Resolutions which have been considered by the National Conventions and National Executive Committee meetings are indexed on the library's computer. In the past, this was accomplished on index cards. It is a slow process, with only one or two cards being able to be produced for each Resolution. The past five years of Resolutions have now been indexed with the computer. This work is a very involved process with the original resolutions needing to be compared to the verbatim minutes, the Digest, and Commission/Committee Reports before it can be added to the database. The result is a complete and detailed compilation which allows the researcher to track down resolutions easily and quickly by title, subject, Department, Commission/Committee on number.

With the addition of another poster storage cabinet, the poster collection has been inventoried and re-organized. It was essential to spread the collection over additional storage drawers to prevent damage through overcrowding to this important collection. With the computerized index, retrieving specific posters from the collection is also now much easier.

We are always grateful to those kind and generous patrons who contribute to the resources of the Library via donations to the Verna B. Grimm Memorial Book Collection. These significant books not only honor and keep alive the memory of individuals but also serve scholars in their work at The American Legion Library. Special appreciation for their generosity is extended to: Mr. Robert H. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Cornelius, Jr., Mr. Emerson Wetzell, and the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion.

Robert H. Barnes donated the books, "Command: A Historical Dictionary of Military Leaders," by James Lucas and "Modern Combat Gear," by Mark Lloyd.

William Pencak donated a copy of his book "For God & Country: The American Legion, 1919-1941."

Richard Vernon Hill donated a copy of his book "My War With Imperial Japan."

The Hon. Harriet Lansing donated a collection of 1924 National Convention Minnesota newspapers.

Statistical summary of 12 months ending May 31, 1990

General correspondence received and filed.....	4,027
Subject correspondence received and filed.....	693
Bulletins, report, etc. received and filed.....	1,096
Pamphlets and clippings received.....	653

Periodicals received	824
Book gifts received	35
History material filed	490
Folders and guides made	1,400
Books catalogued	231
Letters written—National Historian	464
Letters written—National Librarian	652
Prominent Legionnaire questionnaires mailed	415
Prominent Legionnaire questionnaires returned	41
Prominent Legionnaire death memos made	79
Prominent Legionnaire cards entries	2,696
NEC resolutions indexed	80
National Convention resolutions indexed	2,342
Requests answered (persons visiting library)	271
Requests answered by telephone	1,385
Requests answered by tube	628
Requests answered by inter-office mail	79
Follow-ups sent	116
Microfilming (pages)	285,834
Requests—alpha list	781
Microfiche copied	555
Rolls of microfilm added to stock	94

Emil A. Blackmore Museum

JOSEPH J. HOVISH, *Curator*

The Emil A. Blackmore Museum has continued to be visited by Legionnaires and members of the public during the year. It is significant that with little publicity and by word of mouth the Museum has attracted the number of visitors it has.

The work of preservation and display never finishes. The modest amount of floor area does not appear to be enough for all the exhibits which The American Legion owns. Preparation and some re-organization is in progress for the National Convention in August 1990. It is anticipated that more individuals will tour the Museum than in all the previous 22 years since the Museum's opening.

Donors once again are thanked for their contributions to the collection. Significant objects added this past year include the following:

An engraved plate concerning annual pause for the Pledge of Allegiance, donated by the National Flag Day Foundation, Inc.

A limited edition print of the painting by George "Sky" Skyeck of the USO 50th Anniversary Commemorative painting, donated by the USO.

Two photographs from the 1937 American Legion parade, New York City, donated by James Diraimento.

Special Olympics plaque, donated by Past National Commander Craig.

A set of World War II uniforms, donated by Mrs. Helen Cropp.

A museum case, donated by the Department of Indiana, The American Legion.

A 1989 Commemorative coin recognizing Lewiston, Idaho's involvement with American Legion Baseball, 1939-1989, donated by Lewis and Clark Post 13, Lewiston, Idaho.

National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Medal, donated by Mr. E. Stack, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, New York.

A \$2 bill with autographs of Earle Cocke, Jr., his five vice commanders plus Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, donated by Edward B. Wade.

A 1987 National American Legion Baseball Championship Ring to Post 471 of Boyertown, Pennsylvania, donated by Bud Garber.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

GARY W. SAMMONS, *Michigan, Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, *Indiana, Director*

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by a recommendation adopted by the National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919. It read: "We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, whose duty shall be the endeavor to realize in

the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system."

It is the objective of the National Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles and ideals in an understanding and practical manner to Legion Posts and other groups and individuals, including young America.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad, objective, general plan that features wide-range community service, better citizenship, youth development and counter-subversive activities, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission are educational in nature and embrace these specific objectives:

To promote understanding of the principles of democratic government, developing interest in governmental problems, and bringing more citizens to think seriously of the duties of citizenship;

To give sound, practical service in our communities, working to make these communities better and safer places in which to live;

To emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;

To encourage education in every possible manner, presenting school awards, sponsoring and conducting oratorical contests, cooperating with education and citizenship groups, promoting proper Flag Etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth-development programs;

To do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring American Legion Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scout activities and many other citizenship and objective-training activities;

To work for the assimilation of aliens through schools of citizenship and other agencies, and stand for the restriction of immigration so that this assimilation may approach perfection;

To combat subversion and all unAmerican groups and activities which have for their aim the downfall of democracy in America.

In addition, the National Americanism Commission has continued to be actively involved in legislative matters affecting our way of life. Among our legislative priorities are illegal entry of aliens into this country, voluntary prayer in public buildings, bilingual education alternatives and English as the official language of the United States. The most recent legislative initiative of The American Legion is an effort to obtain a Constitutional Amendment that would make the desecration of the American Flag a punishable crime.

This Commission has the responsibility for supervision and coordination of two National Standing Committees: the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Committee on Education.

Following is a summary of various programs which are the responsibility of the National Americanism Commission and have been conducted during the 1990 American Legion Year.

Boys State/Boys Nation

Experience has proven that a stable government depends entirely upon a stable citizenship, and that kind of citizenship must have a fundamental understanding of the basic government of the United States. The American Legion knows that if we are to have that kind of stable citizenship, then we must develop a keen interest in government among our youngest citizens. This is what the program of Boys State does for the young men of our nation. It teaches the fundamentals of American government, up to the state level.

It was 55 years ago that Legionnaires in the State of Illinois recognized the need for a program that would help high school boys really understand and really appreciate the government they were learning about in the classroom. It was a time in the history of this nation when unAmerican ideas seriously threatened the future of the nation. The whole idea of Boys State, then and now, was to show young people that beyond a doubt, our form of government is good, but its preservation depends on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens in combination with an honest and impartial administration of government activities.

Ten years after the inception of Boys State as a program of the Legion, the National Organization recognized the need for a program like Boys State at the National level and in 1946 began sponsorship of American Legion Boys Nation. This year, we will conduct our 45th annual session. Both Boys State and Boys Nation are unique programs that emphasize not classroom lectures and textbook learning, but participation and personal experience in a model "state" that is complete with its governing bodies and elected officials.

Each year, more than 28,000 young Americans take part in Boys State, and through 55 years, the program has graduated well over one million young men.

Every year, each Boys State selects two outstanding graduates to represent them at American Legion Boys Nation. Held in Washington, DC, this year from July 20-28, it is here that the delegates are introduced first-hand to the structure and function of the federal government.

The week of government training in the Nation's Capitol combines lectures and forums with visitations to federal agencies and institutions, shrines and historical spots in and about Washington. Actual participation in the political process is highlighted through the week to include the organization of party conventions and the nomination and election of a Boys Nation President and Vice President. In addition to federal legislators and representatives of federal agencies, American Legion officials and other leaders of national distinction participate in Boys Nation. Jerome R. Loughridge of Duncan, Oklahoma was elected President of the 44th Annual Boys Nation. He will join the Youth Champion delegation as a guest of the National Commander at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 24-30, 1990.

National High School Oratorical Contest

The American Legion has provided over 1.5 million dollars in college scholarships since 1938 for high school students participating in its annual National High School Oratorical Contest. This program, in its 54th year, has been recognized by the Federal Commission for the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution as a program of "exceptional merit."

Each contestant must give a prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to his government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant taking not less than eight nor more than ten minutes for delivery. Each contestant must also give an extemporaneous discourse on a Constitutional topic (not known until the time of the contest), taking not less than three nor more than five minutes for delivery.

The following scholarship awards are made annually: First Place receives \$18,000; Second Place—\$16,000; Third Place—\$14,000; Fourth Place—\$12,000. Competition begins locally and progresses through the Department (state) to the National level of contests. Each winner who is certified into, and participates in the Regional Contest receives a \$1,000 scholarship. Each Regional winner who is eliminated in the Sectionals receives a \$3,000 scholarship. Funds for these awards are provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund.

The 53rd Annual National Finals Contest in 1990 was held at Tampa, Florida. The four finalists were: First Place—Joshua E. Boyd, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky; Second Place—Matthew Malone, Mashpee, Massachusetts; Third Place—Arthur Pai-Shihonu, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Fourth Place—Johnny Brent Goff, Stantonsburg, North Carolina.

Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion sponsors approximately 2,500 Scout Units in communities across the country. Its commitment to the principles of Scouting date back to its first National Convention in 1919.

The American Legion selected Karl E. Hertz of Malvern, Iowa as its 1990 Eagle Scout of the Year. His selection was based on his outstanding religious, school, community and scouting achievements.

He will receive an \$8,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school, the money for which is provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund. He was sponsored by American Legion Post No. 520, Malvern, Iowa.

Three Eagle Scouts were named runners-up for the award and each will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship. They are: Christopher A. Ude, 17, Pulaski, Tennessee, sponsored by Pulaski Post No. 60, Pulaski, Tennessee; Paul Edward Harris, 17, Tremonton, Utah, sponsored by American Legion Post 76; and Joseph A. Finnerty, 17, Forrest Hill, Maryland, sponsored by Hanford Post No. 39.

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a national Americanism program administered through Post-sponsored Junior Shooting Clubs. The purpose of the program is to provide gun safety and marksmanship training for young people 14 through 20 years of age and to offer a wholesome recreational activity

through organized competition. The American Legion maintains that safety is the most important aspect of club activities, and a thorough and comprehensive course of instruction on gun safety is always the first instruction provided to club members.

Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Scholarships

The American Legion develops, publicizes and administers the Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Program, which has for its objective the preparation of nurses at the graduate level in order that they may serve in the areas of prevention and care as it relates to lung and respiratory diseases throughout the United States. The Eight and Forty, for the year 1989-90 awarded twenty scholarships at \$2,500 each, bringing its accumulative total to 504 awards and \$772,000. This scholarship program will again be offered for the 1990-91 school year.

Flag Education

The American Legion is a nationally recognized authority on the proper display of the United States Flag. Each year, hundreds of letters and phone calls are routinely answered giving factual information on the display, use of and respect for the American Flag.

Additionally, over 63,000 copies of our publication, "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" and over 100,000 copies of the pamphlet, "Flag of the United States—How to Display It, How to Respect It" are distributed annually to schools, organizations and individuals. This information is sent at little or no cost to all who request it.

In 1988, an educational comic book titled, "Our Country's Flag", was published for use in elementary schools. More than a million copies have been distributed since the booklet was introduced.

Service to God and Country

A program of basic Americanism, this program seeks to prevent the spiritual decay of America by charging the citizenry with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human rights and freedoms.

"Service to God" emphasizes regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, while "Service to Country" attempts to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation. These objectives are aimed at preparing young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our Country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, thrift, ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

Each year a Conference for the Department Chaplains is held under the direction of the National Chaplain. Training and program information is provided for further dissemination to District and Post Chaplains who coordinate the program at the local level.

American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball celebrates its 65th anniversary in 1990. This program continues to provide American youth with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of baseball, teamwork and teaches them a code of sportsmanship at the same time.

The American Legion Baseball Player of the Year in 1989 was Del Marine, 3rd baseman for Post 826, Woodland Hills, California. Marine was honored at the Hall of Fame Game, Cooperstown, New York, July 23, 1990.

Alan Trammell, of the Detroit Tigers, was selected as the 1989 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year and was so saluted on July 25, 1990. The choice was made since Trammell exemplifies the aims and principles of our program by his general good conduct on and off the field, his cooperation with others, his community service, his playing eligibility and his contribution to the sport and to youth. Slightly more than 58 percent of all 1990 major leaguers—567—played American Legion Baseball as teenagers.

Regional tournaments leading up to the 1990 World Series at Corvallis, Oregon, August 22-26, will be played at:

Northeastern (Region 1)—Middletown, Connecticut

Mid-Atlantic (Region 2)—Lynchburg, Virginia

Southeastern (Region 3)—Cherryville, N. Carolina

Mid-South (Region 4)—Stuttgart, Arkansas

Great Lakes (Region 5)—St. Cloud, Minnesota

Central Plains (Region 6)—Williston, ND

Pacific Northwest (Region 7)—Eugene, Oregon

Western (Region 8)—Union City, California

Boyetown, Pennsylvania will host the 1991 World Series and Fargo, North Dakota has been awarded the 1992 event.

For the 1990 season of American Legion Baseball, nearly 4,000 teams desiring to participate in national competition have been certified to National Headquarters. This is an increase over 1989's total by approximately 63 teams. It is estimated that another 2,500 teams not certified for national competition also participated in the Legion Baseball program during the 1990 season.

The 30th Annual National Baseball Conference will be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 21-23, 1990. Fifty states and Puerto Rico will send Baseball Representatives to discuss and recommend policy for the 1991 American Legion Baseball season.

COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

F. RODNEY LOPER, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee, since its establishment by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on November 17, 1950 has scrutinized and continues to monitor what is transpiring in the realm of subversion and terrorism. This is a program of the Americanism Commission and detailed reports of its activities are given to the National Executive Committee at its Spring and Fall Meetings and at National Conventions.

The Committee is responsible for furnishing background information on assigned resolutions that are considered by the National Americanism Commission for recommended action to the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

The National Americanism Commission has long been concerned about anti-American activities and, in 1952, developed a publication known as *Firing Line*. This began regular dissemination of information on certain groups and organizations participating in activities of a subversive nature.

Every effort is made to maintain a publication which is current and up-to-date. During the past year, *Firing Line* has reported on: Desecration of the U.S. Flag; illegal aliens; espionage and convicted spies; and terrorism around the world.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Program

DR. W.F. HAYNIE, Texas, *Chairman*

The National Committee on Education, established in 1976, meets twice a year and is the only joint committee comprised of members from both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary: Six Legionnaires appointed by the National Americanism Chairman and three Auxiliary members appointed by the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary.

The purposes of the National Committee are: (1) To inform itself and The American Legion of developments, problems and potentials in the field of education; (2) To recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion; and (3) To maintain contact with the educational community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between The American Legion and educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the Nation.

The degree of success of this Committee is determined by the priority assigned and sincerity of appointment given to similar committees at the Department and Post levels.

Education was one of the first major concerns of The American Legion. Early in its development, the organization committed itself to a constructive support of education. During the following years, The American Legion developed a formal Policy on Education with these fundamental concepts.

Fundamental Concepts. The American Legion has always strongly supported the principle that education is a necessary prerequisite to the successful function of a democracy. While recognizing the right of private and religious groups to maintain

schools, The American Legion vigorously subscribes to the necessity for a universal publicly supported system of primary, secondary and college education to ensure that every American child has the opportunity for an adequate education. The American Legion believes that popular self-government as created by the covenant set forth in the Constitution of the United States, cannot continue to exist unless there is the bulwark of a continuing system of free public education. Not only does proper National defense require trained personnel, but the daily operations of our local, State, and Federal Governments, our farms, our professions, our commerce and industry and, in fact, every phase of life today, demands that we have competent citizens, who are qualified, willing and able to discharge their responsibilities.

The availability of educational opportunity for every individual to pursue his own development is a prerequisite to the achievement of all other social goals. Our education system must, therefore, be designed to provide every person the means to reach his highest potential, which, in turn, will provide our Country with the high level of responsible citizens and specialized workers which it requires. In turn, we will have greater assurance of economic growth, of sound decision-making, and the knowledge necessary to promote our National security.

The American education system should produce citizens who understand and are dedicated to the principles of free enterprise; to democratic principles and processes; and whose devotion to freedom and human dignity goes beyond mere lip service.

Elements of the Program. The Education Program consists of three basic elements: (1) Recognition of local systems through observance and activities of American Education Week; (2) Dissemination of scholarship and financial aid information through the publication of "Need a Lift?"; and (3) Promotion of involvement by American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units in a community-wide effort to enhance the programs and policies of the local schools through the guidelines provided in the handbook PACT (Post, Auxiliary, Community Together).

American Education Week. American Education Week is an annual event co-sponsored nationally by The American Legion, the National Education Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National School Boards Association and the Department of Education. The observance was originally established by The American Legion with the help of the National Education Association in 1921. The major objective of this program is to focus public attention on the needs and achievements of the Nation's schools. This year's theme is, "Educating Everyone Takes Everyone". The observance is scheduled to begin on Sunday, November 11 and conclude on Saturday, November 17, 1990. Pamphlets with suggestions have been prepared for distribution to all American Legion Posts so they may formulate plans for their observance.

"Need A Lift?" This publication, revised each year, contains more than 100 pages of scholarships, grants and loan information, work-study cooperative programs and sources of career information for all students. A special section is directed to veterans and their dependents; another section lists scholarships and financial aids available from departments of the American Legion.

Need a Lift? also contains an electronic scholarship search application which the student can send for at a reduced fee. This search is tailored to each individual based on how they fill out the application. In the event enough scholarship or grant money cannot be secured, this publication offers a toll free telephone number. This call will generate an information packet known as The American Legion Option 4 Loan Program. This is an educational loan and, if approved, can be used to supplement the remaining needed funds. Since many community banks no longer offer education loans, this service is provided to open that avenue if it is needed.

Our scholarship data base is provided by National College Services, Ltd. This data is so large we could not afford to publish a book that would hold it all. To accommodate this in conjunction with National College Services, Ltd., we encourage our Posts to make this data base available to their local schools. They can purchase the College Aid Sources for Higher Education (CASHE) data base on computer floppy disks at a very reduced fee.

A companion publication is the pamphlet "A Guide for Parents and Students" which contains planning and financial information for high school students and their parents. Each year distribution of over 100,000 copies of each of these publications is handled through American Legion Posts, schools, counselors and librarians, by mail to all public and private high schools and individual requests, and by exhibiting (with free distribution) at the national conventions of the American Association for Counseling and Development, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National School Board Association. Copies can also be obtained by writing: "Need A Lift?", The American Legion National Emblem Sales Division, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Individual copies of "Need A Lift?" are

\$2.00 each (less than 10 copies prepaid). "A Guide for Parents and Students" is available at a cost of \$12.50 per 500 or \$18.75 per 1,000 copies.

PACT Handbook. This handbook is the guide for The American Legion Education Chairman. It contains information on the goals and objectives of the program, ideas and suggestions for activities, coordinating concepts and a typical calendar of a successful program. Programs covered in the handbook include: Adult Literacy; Citizenship Education; Career Education activities such as Career Nights, Community Resource Files and Adopt-A-School; and Financial Aid Nights.

Commitment. The American Legion further believes that the citizens of this country should be dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the entire realm of intellectual endeavor; that our people should recognize and esteem those persons who have developed their intellectual abilities to the fullest extent; that teachers should enrich their knowledge and capacity, particularly in the fields in which they teach and that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded.

Such an educational program will fulfill the dreams of the past, the aspirations of the present and the needs of the future. The American Legion supports such a system of education, and believes that the vitality of our democratic way of life is dependent upon such schools.

School Medal Award Program. Nearly 25,000 young students are recipients of the American Legion School Medal Award each year. This program is designed to recognize the young people for the following purposes:

COURAGE—Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do the right thing without public applause and regardless of personal advantage. A quality of intellect.

HONOR—Highly-developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct, devotion to duty; adherence to truth; keen sense of what is right; practice of clean speech.

LEADERSHIP—Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill the voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illness or other handicaps.

PATRIOTISM—An ideal of loyal Americanism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, and the willingness to defend our Flag against all enemies—foreign or domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.

SCHOLARSHIP—Attainments in school studies; quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency and intelligence.

SERVICE—Kindliness, unselfishness, fellowship, protection of the weak, promotion of the interests and welfare of associates and constructive aid for the upbuilding of schools and community.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

EUGENE V. LINDQUIST, Minnesota, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, Indiana, *Director*

As World War I was coming to a close, many veterans knew there would be many post-war issues that would specifically deal with them and their families. This group of veterans formed an organization called The American Legion and at the first National Convention conducted in November of 1919, they passed resolutions to petition Congress to enact legislation that would aid the needs of veterans, their families, and the American way of life.

American Legion Posts were urged to assist widows and children of deceased veterans and Congress was asked to make compensation allowances for them because of their family's sacrifice. The initial purpose of the Legion's Child Welfare program was to provide a setting in which every veteran's child would realize his/her full potential.

It then became very apparent that a need existed to show concern for all the youth of the Nation to insure improve conditions that would allow them the best possible environment in which to grow. The volunteer force of nearly 4 million members in The American Legion and Auxiliary is second to none in this Country when it comes to providing assistance for its children.

From its beginning to the present, The American Legion has maintained a positive and successful approach to gain achievements that will benefit all children. This involvement by Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units clearly indicates that our organizations do much more than just talk about being concerned. For our children to

be effective leaders in the future, they must be given every possible opportunity to grow and learn in our society.

1989-90 PROGRAM

Each year during the month of May, our National Commission on Children & Youth meets to discuss what programs it wants to emphasize for the coming program year. The National staff is then directed to research these areas of concern and publish materials to support our volunteers.

Because there has been a continuing need in our current areas of concern, the Commission decided to continue with these same areas of emphasis. The areas for concentration for this program year were:

1. Drug Abuse Prevention
2. Teenage Suicide Prevention
3. Missing Children
4. Indoor/Outdoor Safety

Drug Abuse Prevention: The advancement of medical technology has given us many wonder drugs to relieve and cure today's numerous pains and ailments. Unfortunately, that same advancement has given society more types of substances to abuse. Amphetamines and barbiturates continue to be major items of abuse because they are easy to conceal, not very hard to obtain, and are reasonably priced when compared to other drugs.

The great tragedy of substance abuse has infested all levels of our society and is becoming more and more prevalent in elementary school age children. Many children come in contact with drugs by age seven. It is our feeling that we must continue to attack this problem from the demand side. Of course, we need to try and dry up the supply as often as possible, but the more we can assist in keeping children from becoming users, the greater the impact on the demand.

Adolescence is a very trying time for young people. They may turn to drugs in anticipation of lessening the pressures of growing up, without realizing they are only digging a deeper hole. Our volunteers are making great strides in two major areas. They have been instrumental in educating children and their parents on substance abuse and are also offering positive alternatives for our young people to direct their abundant energy.

Children need to be taught the proper use and value of prescription medicines and the physical and mental dangers involved with the use of all substances to include the legal drugs of alcohol and tobacco. Many of our Nation's youth are also assisting with this problem. They are forming "Just Say No" clubs in schools to create a positive peer pressure to show they can have just as much fun by staying straight. All concerned citizens must never let up in showing our young people we are concerned about them and their future for a productive life.

Teenage Suicide Prevention: According to statistics, the suicide rate for persons under the age of 21 has tripled since 1955. Every hour, at least one American teenager or young adult has committed suicide and as many as 40 others have made the attempt.

Data shows that suicide is the second largest killer among college age students and the third largest killer among early and middle teens. It is a sad commentary on today's society that so many young people seek to eliminate their troubles by taking their own lives. Suicide has developed into an epidemic killer of this Nation's young people from all walks of life.

Research findings from around the country indicate the following:

- * Eight out of ten people that kill themselves give some warning of their intentions.
- * Many suicides occur around three months after there has been some improvement of their troubles.
- * Suicide is represented among all income groups.
- * Suicide does not automatically run in families.
- * Individuals are not necessarily mentally ill.
- * Nearly half are drug related.
- * Many happen in split families or when a poor parent/child relationship exists.
- * Four out of five who actually commit suicide have tried to do so at least once before.

One of the disadvantages of high technology is that it helps to create a fast-paced society, expecting more and more of what the technology offers. Our young people are getting caught up in this "fast lane" of society before they are emotionally or physically ready for it.

It is imperative that any adult who has daily contact with young people educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide if we are to decrease the numbers in this tragic area. This Nation cannot afford to let one of its greatest National resources go to such waste.

Missing Children: How much do we take for granted during the day-to-day routine of our lives? If we really took the time to list these items, we would most likely be quite surprised at the length of the list. Two such items could easily be: Getting the kids off to school or day care center and sitting down at the dinner table for the evening meal. But what if you get home and your child or one of your children is not there and there has been no message as to their whereabouts?

What would you do? Where would you go? Who would you contact? Maybe the child just stopped to play at a friend's house. But maybe the child is just GONE. Lost, abducted, murdered, amnesia, and runaways are horrifying words for a parent to think about, but they are the categories of the problem *MISSING*.

It is estimated that as many as 4,000 youngsters are murdered each year. Most of which are unidentified bodies in unknown areas. For every unidentified body found, there is a family somewhere wondering what happened to their missing young person.

Most local law enforcement agencies have at least a 24-hour waiting period, especially for youngsters between the ages of 11 and 18. (Even if a younger child is missing, an immediate investigation must be substantiated by direct evidence of foul play.) In the case of a youngster that just disappears, that type of evidence is not there. When a youngster is missing, the major portion of the burden of search is carried by the parents.

If your car is stolen in one state and found in another state, it can usually be recovered by identification information placed on a stolen vehicle report. The Police agencies' computers are geared for that type of theft. This is not the case in the theft of a child.

Of the approximate 150,000 children that are abducted each year, 50,000 are taken by strangers and 100,000 by non-custodial parents of divorces or separations. Of these numbers, 10 percent are found alive and about another 10 percent are found dead. The rest are never seen again, alive or dead, by their families. The odds of recovery at best could only be labeled as dismal.

This is a problem that not only threatens the family way of life, but the very existence of children that most often are too young to help themselves.

Indoor/Outdoor Safety: In the busy day to day routine of a normal day, there are many things we all take for granted. Many potentially dangerous situations exist in and around our homes each day and it is the parents responsibility to keep those situations from becoming serious accidents. Safety, indoors and outdoors, is vital to the health and welfare of all children.

Even in somewhat environmentally controlled homes, playgrounds and parks, the potential for serious injury is always present. Making children safety conscious, in the home and outside, is necessary to assure our children have an opportunity to play and grow into useful adults and citizens.

Continuing Programs

Temporary Financial Assistance: This program is the landmark of the Children & Youth activities. From the very start, it voiced the concern of our Founders for the care of veterans' children. It is still a very active program of the Children & Youth Commission, and the past few years have seen a steady increase in the amounts of assistance required for needy veteran families.

The fund is used to assist families in meeting the costs of shelter, food, utilities, and health income items when the parents are unable to do so. We are thereby helping to keep child(ren) in a more stable home environment.

Through the program of TFA, a Post may call upon the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of veterans' children. Funds can be granted over a temporary period to eligible children when it has been determined by investigation that the child is in need and that no other sources are available or, those that are available are inadequate.

Temporary Financial Assistance is a vital tool used by The American Legion to help insure the child of a veteran is allowed to develop in the home.

Halloween: The "Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night" program is now entering its 18th year of National emphasis. It developed from the horror of the early 1970's, when nationwide attention was focused on our children being maimed and drugged by "treats" they had gathered from neighbors on Halloween.

There are many activities that can be planned at the community level to reduce the risks of children being harmed during this time of the year.

The National office of The American Legion publishes a brochure that passes along ideas and safety tips to aid in keeping this a fun and festive occasion. These brochures are available through our state organizations and all are encouraged to use them to help protect the well-being of our children.

Special Post Activity Award: This is a recognition program for our Legion Posts. Each year, we encourage our Posts to submit a project they have conducted during the past year that has benefited the youth of their community. As an incentive, beautiful plaques are prepared for the winners and awarded in the presence of their peers at their National Leadership Workshop held each fall.

American Legion Family Week: For many years, the National Commission on Children & Youth has, by mandate, advocated the passage of federal legislation designating the week of Thanksgiving as National Family Week. Many organizations have joined us in this quest. It is now our position to continue to push for such legislation, but in the mean time, to conduct our own observance of this important annual event. Many activities have been outlined to help us bring the basic unit in America, the family, into proper perspective. As an example: SUNDAY—Religion Day—Whatever your faith, share its importance with your young. MONDAY—Home day—Focus attention on the responsibility a parent and children have to each other. TUESDAY—Education Day—Self-discipline, the key to excellence, is essential at all levels of education. WEDNESDAY—Community Day—Your family's role in your community. THURSDAY—Thanksgiving Day. FRIDAY—Nature Day—Discipline selves to nature's laws and beauty. SATURDAY—Recreation Day or Religious Observance Day.

National Leadership Workshops

Our National Commission has been very encouraged by the attendance of our volunteers. At the 1989 set of conferences, we again saw an increase of attendees for both Legion and Auxiliary members. At these workshops, we share our programs and methods of implementation with the Posts and Units. In 1989, our workshops were conducted at:

- Region 1—Springfield, Massachusetts—October 27-29
- Region 2—East Brunswick, New Jersey—October 6-8
- Region 3—Charleston, South Carolina—September 15-17
- Region 4—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma—September 29-October 1
- Region 5—Southfield, Michigan—October 27-29
- Region 6—Lincoln, Nebraska—September 22-24
- Region 7—Reno, Nevada—October 6-8
- Region 8—Cody, Wyoming—September 29-October 1

We realize that all of our delegates cannot afford to stay in a hotel, and that is why we move them around each year, from city to city within each region. This gives Posts in each area the opportunity to send representatives at a very minimal cost. Our major goal is to help children, and our presence at these outreach workshops is really having a positive impact on our annual program.

Legislative Efforts

The initiation and support of worthwhile Children & Youth legislation is one of the means by which the Children & Youth Commission has attempted to accomplish its goal during the 1988-89 program year. At our National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6-8, 1988, the following mandates were introduced for our attention during this Congress:

Reaffirming Immunization Program: Res. 473. The American Legion realizes that in today's society there is no place for communicable diseases for which there is a vaccine. Though true, we also realize that several childhood communicable diseases breakout annually because children are not properly vaccinated. It is our belief that full protection is available and that the state and federal governments should provide sufficient funding so that indigent families with children can receive the necessary immunizations against all communicable diseases.

Violence and Vandalism in Schools: Res. 474. Juveniles account for nearly 35 percent of our population and better than 50 percent of serious crimes as reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Much of that crime is directed to the over \$500,000,000 damage done to Government-supported institutions, specifically schools and housing. With this violence and vandalism in our Nation's institutions is an enormous loss of educational and domestic resources and human potential. The American Legion urges that local school boards, law enforcement agencies and their state organizations develop a balanced and effective program to reduce and prevent

violence and vandalism in educational institutions. Further, Congress is urged to enact legislation through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a grant program to assist in these efforts.

Child Pornography: Res. 475. Studies indicate that there is a direct and strong correlation between those who read pornographic magazines and those who commit related crimes. Additional data reveals that child pornography, "kiddie porn," is often found in the personal effects of child molesters after their arrest. The American Legion is firm in its position that the interstate transportation of obscene material must be stopped and that the United States Postal Service be provided sufficient investigators to enforce existing federal laws against pornography and the transportation of pornographic material.

Pornographic and Obscene Literature: Res. 476. As there have been attempts to eliminate protective laws from the criminal code regarding the production, distribution and sale of pornographic and obscene literature, The American Legion is strongly opposed to any attempt to weaken existing laws.

National Family Week: Res. 477. One of the basic principles of our program is to maintain the integrity of the family home. In today's fast paced society, it is critical that we seek to recognize the importance of strengthening the basic unit of our country . . . the family. No institution can take the place of the family in giving meaning to human life and stability to our society. Every year, we urge the President and the Congress to establish National Family Week on permanent basis during the Thanksgiving holiday week.

School Nutrition Program: Res. 478. The American Legion once again reaffirms its position that the Congress of the United States and the various state legislatures be urged to appropriate sufficient funds for school nutrition programs to reflect the increased cost of food and to provide for needed facilities and trained personnel for the purpose of conducting an adequate school lunch program.

Catastrophic Illness Among Children: Res. 479. It has long been our position that all children should have adequate health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being. Through our Temporary Financial Assistance program, we have seen an increase in the case load of needy medical problems. Unfortunately, many of our children are not receiving the necessary medical care due to the extreme requirements placed on the financial abilities of the average family. Consequently, children with severe catastrophic illnesses are not receiving the needed medical care. The rising cost of medical care in such cases is not covered by even the best of medical policies. The American Legion believes that the state and federal governments should enact the necessary legislation to assist financially those families faced by catastrophic illness to the end that the family will not be financially devastated.

Drug Trafficking Prevention: Res. 480. We realize that one of the best methods to attack the drug problem is from the demand side, but this resolution is to urge funding to all necessary areas and agencies that can help reduce the quantity of these substances that are being made available in this country. By working at both ends of the problem, we can make a difference in the number of users.

These are the highlights of our 1989 Children & Youth legislative program. The Children & Youth Commission has constantly urged its Departments of The American Legion to support Children & Youth legislation as it relates to our National objectives. Local Posts are also encouraged to support city ordinances as they deal with the community's efforts to improve conditions for children and youth. Our Children & Youth legislation program is a never-ending process, which we eagerly accept for the sake of all children—everywhere!

Children & Youth Expenditures

Annually, as it has for the past 65 years, the Commission on Children & Youth records activities from nearly 15,000 Posts of The American Legion, 12,000 Units of the American Legion Auxiliary, and hundreds of Salons of the Eight and Forty. In addition, the expenditures of Departments and of the National Organization are obtained for the 12-month period of June 1 through May 31, and combined with these reports.

This year, Posts and Departments of the Legion reported expenditures of \$41,907,591. To this amount, we proudly add \$4,446,079 by the Auxiliary. An additional \$247,838 was expended by the Eight and Forty, while \$98,210 was given to families in need through our Temporary Financial Assistance program. To this we add other contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of \$60,988. This amounts to a grand total of expenditures and contributions to the total Children & Youth program in 1989-90 of \$46,760,706.

Children & Youth Literature

During the 1989-90 program year, tens of thousands of pieces of Children & Youth literature were distributed by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division as it attempted to further the objectives of our total program.

As shown in Table #5, our most popular brochures are those related to our major points of emphasis—Drug Abuse, Teenage Suicide, Missing Children and Safety. It is of further interest to note that 4,869 citations were distributed to Departments in order to recognize Posts for their contributions to the overall Children & Youth Program.

Appreciation Acknowledged

The National Commission on Children & Youth and its Chairman must take this opportunity to thank the volunteers of the Legion and its Auxiliary. Many hours, tremendous amounts of energy and personal sacrifice cannot be repaid. We are indeed thankful that the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in The American Legion. Special mention must also go to our National Commander Miles S. Epling; not because of his rank, but because of his sincere dedication and verbal support for our program during this past year. Likewise, special thanks to National Adjutant Robert Spanogle for his support and cooperation. The American Legion does an excellent job with this program, but the record must be clear. Without the assistance of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Eight and Forty and the Sons of The American Legion, our National Children & Youth Program would have little chance for success.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

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Regional Vice Chairmen

Dennis T. Golda, Pawtucket, Rhode Island—Region 1 Vice Chairman
 Clyde C. Ferguson, Dumfries, Virginia—Region 2 Vice Chairman
 Josephine A. LoCicero, Holmes Beach, Florida—Region 3 Vice Chairman
 Ernest C. Bradshaw, Gould, Arkansas—Region 4 Vice Chairman
 Miles Smith, Chicago, Illinois—Region 5 Vice Chairman
 Willis E. Danekas, Clark, South Dakota—Region 6 Vice Chairman
 Tom Sweeney, California City, California—Region 7 Vice Chairman
 Robert D. Scott, Lebanon, Oregon—Region 8 Vice Chairman

Advisory Board

Mrs. William Calder, Indianapolis, Indiana—National President—American Legion Auxiliary

Mrs. Donna M. Baley, Sturgis, Michigan—Le Chapeau National—Eight and Forty
 Charles Holloway, Tillar, Arkansas
 Edward S. Phillips, Jr., Seaford, Delaware

General Members

Region 1

Lester R. Perham, Milford, New Hampshire
 Ray Greenwood, Montpelier, Vermont
 Robert B. Inman, Plainville, Connecticut
 Dennis T. Golda, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
 Wilford E. Barr, Lisbon Falls, Maine
 Paul A. Morin, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Region 2

Anthony Lori, Whippany, New Jersey
 Arthur P. Oger, Paden City, West Virginia
 Ronald E. Pospichal, Dover, Delaware
 Howard L. Matty, New Hartford, New York
 Clyde C. Ferguson, Dumfries, Virginia
 Sotero Garcia, Riverdale, Maryland
 Warren L. Dearstine, Mechanicsville, Maryland
 Edward J. Osowiecki, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Region 3

William H. Dent, Jr., Montgomery, Alabama
 Perry Hill, Montezuma, Georgia
 Sherman Lillard, Cherokee, North Carolina
 Josephine A. LoCicero, Holmes Beach, Florida
 Jerry S. Grant, Louisville, Kentucky
 Bill Sams, Columbia, South Carolina
 Jay E. Harville, Kingsport, Tennessee

Region 4

Louis J. (Jim) Fagan, Jackson, Mississippi
 Ernest C. Bradshaw, Gould, Arkansas
 Clyde A. Hickman, Ponca City, Oklahoma
 B. E. Flanakin, Springhill, Louisiana
 Howard Lee Marks, Beaumont, Texas

Region 5

Therman L. Cossairt, Jr., Colon, Michigan
 William R. Ball, Hannibal, Missouri
 Miles Smith, Chicago, Illinois
 Thomas L. Gabel, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Ron Lowe, Williamsport, Indiana
 Kenneth A. Bonde, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Region 6

Terry Kruse, Lone Tree, Iowa
 G. Sheldon Hanson, North St. Paul, Minnesota
 Joe T. Phillips, Omaha, Nebraska
 Willis E. Danekas, Clark, South Dakota
 Frances Swensen, Junction City, Kansas
 Paul G. Schadewald, Sykeston, North Dakota

Region 7

Winston O. Scoville, Kailua, Hawaii
 Dan B. Craig, Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Ray Martinez, Phoenix, Arizona
 Tom Sweeney, California City, California
 Mrs. Dorothy M. Burdick, Boulder, Colorado
 Louis Pardy, North Las Vegas, Nevada
 Dahl Ray Jensen, Kearns, Utah

Region 8

Thomas W. Streeper, Ketchikan, Alaska
 Don G. Gunderson, Albion, Idaho
 William A. Macmillan, Helena, Montana

Robert D. Scott, Lebanon, Oregon
 Mel Younkin, Wenatchee, Washington
 Donald J. McCandlish, Laramie, Wyoming

Commission on Children & Youth Liaison Committee

Robert W. Durand, Albuquerque, New Mexico—Chairman
 Bruce Thiesen, Kingsburg, California
 Donovan L. Orth, Greenwood, Delaware
 Roger L. Wild, Lincoln, Nebraska
 E. Lawson Schwope, Cheyenne, Wyoming

TABLE NO. 5—*Printed Material Furnished Upon Request During Period June 1, 1989 Through May 31, 1990*

Annual Children & Youth Program Piece	31,394
Children Beware	123,085
April Is Children & Youth Month	31,373
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	50,656
Children & Youth on the Rocks	146,518
Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night	56,884
Marijuana	147,591
Cocaine	136,216
Special Olympics Program Guide	11,150
Special Post Activity Award	17,930
TFA Applications	3,751
TFA Brochures	20,931
Warning Signs—Suicide Prevention	112,811
Safety Tips—Indoor	75,144
Safety Tips—Outdoor	77,577
Children & Youth Resource Brochure	6,251
Americanism/Children & Youth Catalog Brochure	9,234
Citations:	
Annual Children & Youth Citations	3,768
Certificate of Meritorious Service	99
National Achievement Award	78
Special Children & Youth Citations	827
Star Certificate of Excellence	26
Star Certificate of Participation	71
Reporting:	
Tally Sheet	1,302
Unit Report Form	10,248
We Want a Report from Your Unit or Salon	5,354
Total	1,080,269

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

U.S. "UDIE" GRANT, Kansas, *President*

PAUL R. FRINSTHAL, Illinois, *Executive Secretary*

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., has established itself as one of this nation's leading advocates for the future well-being of our children and youth. As a separate corporation from the American Legion, the Foundation, since its incorporation in 1954, has made grants totalling just over three million dollars. These grants have been made to nonprofit, youth-oriented agencies and organizations across the nation. To qualify for such grants, projects must fall into one of the following categories:

1. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and
2. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

Since its beginning, 36 years ago, the Foundation has received over 3.3 million dollars in contributions, primarily from members of The American Legion, Ameri-

can Legion Auxiliary, Eight and Forty and the Sons of The American Legion. The Foundation has always been of the opinion that it is better to prevent many of the physical and social ills confronting our nation's youth than to try to correct the problem after it has already occurred. The Child Welfare Foundation became an official part of The American Legion's Children and Youth Program in 1956.

On April 30, 1990, the Foundation's Board of Directors met in Indianapolis, Indiana, to consider 21 grant applications for grants totaling over \$650,000. These grant requests were made from all parts of the country, and they represented many excellent programs to benefit the children and youth of this country. During this meeting, grants totaling \$293,100 were awarded to ten voluntary, nonprofit organizations who are actively engaged in helping our youngest generation. Without the continued support of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as the Eight and Forty, such assistance would not be possible. The following grants were awarded for the 1990-91 granting year:

The American Legion Department of Virginia was awarded \$16,000 for their project entitled "Teens! Pregnancies and Problems." This is a board game played by both boys and girls, taking them through an unwanted teen pregnancy period and having them react to 180 potential events related to 30 life situations. The ultimate goal of this project is to prevent teen pregnancies by increasing knowledge.

Riggs-Hamilton Post No. 20 of The American Legion of Arkansas, was awarded \$28,700 for their project entitled "A Mark Against Time." They will print and distribute nationwide a bookmark to nearly one and a half million students. The anti-drug message will be a constant reminder that someone cares about their future.

The Aplastic Anemia Foundation of America of Baltimore, Maryland, was awarded \$22,000 for their project entitled "Helping The Parent/Educating The Public and Professional." This is a massive educational program for the patient, public and medical profession. A renewed effort in this area will help to better the lives of Aplastic Anemia patients and possibly save their lives.

The Epilepsy Foundation of America of Landover, Maryland, was awarded \$18,300 for their project entitled "I Have Epilepsy Too." A video will be designed to promote the acceptance of children with epilepsy, build self-esteem for their children, and sensitize other children about what having epilepsy means to their peers.

The International Rett Syndrome Association of Fort Washington, Maryland, was awarded \$12,100 for their project entitled "Project Awareness: What Is Rett Syndrome?" An educational video will be produced about Rett Syndrome for use by affected families, schools, institutions, hospitals and therapists. The major goal is to help identify thousands of misdiagnosed Rett Syndrome patients across the United States.

The National Commission on Children & Youth of The American Legion was awarded \$34,000 for their project entitled "Meeting The Demand." The popularity and demand for their various brochures has far exceeded budgetary restrictions and in-house printing capabilities. Service to the unmet needs of their volunteers is the ultimate goal.

The National Crime Prevention Council of Washington, D.C., was awarded \$14,000 for their Project entitled "Substance Abuse Prevention Packet for Teens." They will develop and disseminate an informational packet on how teens can become active participants in the war on drugs.

The National Federal TARGET Program, Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri, was awarded \$49,200 for their project entitled "On Target: Putting It All Together." A program designed to mix prevention and education, concerning drugs and abuse, with that of the regular curriculum will be developed.

National Neurofibromatosis Foundation, Inc. of Tallahassee, Florida, was awarded \$39,300 for their project entitled "Achieving In Spite Of . . ." This project is designed to help parents, teachers and other adults recognize and assist children with learning disabilities due to neurofibromatosis.

Officers of the Board are U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas, President; W. H. Redman, Oklahoma, Vice President; Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota, Secretary; James P. Holley, Texas, Treasurer. Members of the corporation include: W. Calvitt Bradwell, South Carolina; Robert W. Durand, New Mexico; L. Eldon James, Virginia; C. B. Knight, Louisiana; and George W. Boucek, Illinois.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Liason Committee include Viola Moltzen, Chairman; Maxine V. Bigalow, Vice Chairman and Linda Boone, Member.

Members of the Eight and Forty Liason Committee include Donna M. Baley, La Chapeau; Elsie Hemphill, Demi Chapeau and Venita A. Holthaus, Children & Youth Chairman.

Members of the Sons of the American Legion Liason Committee include James Arter, Chairman; Charles Yunker, Vice Chairman and Terry Gilbert, Member.

Appointed personnel consists of Paul R. Frinsthal, Executive Secretary and Webber LaGrange, Assistant Treasurer.

The future of this Foundation depends on the generosity of our volunteers. We cannot continue to make grants, like those listed above, without their help. Particularly, we wish to single out the hundreds who made Memorial Contributions in the name of a deceased loved one. In doing so, they create a living memorial that will provide help for many children for many years to come.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the Foundation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests to the Foundation are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

CONVENTION COMMISSION

JAMES J. CHARLESTON, Illinois, *Chairman*

ROBERT P. RADKE, Ohio, *Director*

"A most successful Convention", "biggest and finest in recent years", "great Parade". Those are a few of the comments heard after the 71st Annual National Convention of The American Legion. The Convention was held in Baltimore, MD, September 1-7, 1989. The city proved to be a great Convention arena. Teamwork between the Maryland National Convention Corporation and its committees and the National Staff provided excellent facilities and programs for all Convention attendees. All functions of the Convention were well attended, many with record or near record attendance. Well done Baltimore.

Commission Meetings

The Convention Commission held regular spring and fall meetings at Indianapolis, Indiana and held a meeting at the National Convention at Baltimore.

Four cities were considered for hosting the 1995 National Convention. The City of Portland, Oregon was recommended to the National Executive Committee to host the National Convention from September 1 through 7, 1995. The recommendation was accepted. The 1990 National Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 24-30. As this is Headquarters city of the American Legion, a large attendance is expected. Phoenix, Arizona will host the 1991 Convention, August 30 through September 5.

Future tentative awards are:

Chicago, Illinois, August 28-September 3, 1992; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 3-9, 1993; Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2-8, 1994; Portland, Oregon, September 1-7, 1995.

Cities interested in hosting future Conventions include New Orleans, Louisiana; Detroit, Michigan; Cincinnati, Ohio; Salt Lake City, Utah; Denver, Colorado; Seattle, Washington; Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Uniform Group Contests

Senior Band and Senior Color guard contests were held in Baltimore, Maryland. Five Senior bands competed as did twenty Color Guard units. These contests are again scheduled for the 1990 Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana and will be continued in future years as long as there are enough groups entered to provide competitive contests.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

ALLEN L. TITUS, Indiana, *Chairman*

The Distinguished Guest Committee operates under the umbrella of the Convention Commission and is directed to assume the responsibility of coordinating the activities of those persons invited to attend the National Convention as Distinguished Guests. The Committee arranges transportation requirements upon arrival and departure at the Convention city and also provides such services to the various events which the guest wishes to attend.

Proper credentials, agendas, itineraries and other necessary details are all part of this operation and special requests are honored when possible.

For the first time at the Baltimore Convention, many of the functions of this Committee were programmed into a computer. This proved to be most successful and helpful in carrying out the functions of the Committee and will be continued at the 1990 Indianapolis Convention.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

JOSEPH J. FRANK, Missouri, *Chairman*

JAMES B. HUBBARD, Michigan, *Director*

This report covers the programs, activities and accomplishments of the National Economic Commission, its two standing Committees (Employment and Veterans Preference), and the staff from July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990. Since the Commission and the Committees always meet concurrently, all future reference to the Commission in this report will automatically indicate the inclusion of the Committees.

1989-1990 Meetings

During the period this report covers, the Commission met for four regularly scheduled executive sessions. A list of those meetings follows:

1) Forty-six members of the Economic Commission met on September 2, 1989 in conjunction with the Seventy-first Annual National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. This meeting was held in Room 305 of the Baltimore Convention Center. A report on that meeting was made to the National Executive Committee (NEC) on Monday, September 4, 1989. The complete text of that report appears on pages 51-52 of the *Proceedings of the National Executive Committee's Pre- and Post-Convention Meetings*.

2) Sixteen members of the Economic Commission met at the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 16-17, 1989. A complete report on that meeting appears on pages 40-43 of the *Digest of Proceedings of the National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 1989*.

3) Twenty-seven members of the Economic Commission met in conjunction with the Thirtieth Annual Washington Conference on Monday, February 26th and Wednesday, February 28, 1990. Those sessions were held in the Dover Room of the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. A report on the topics covered during those two sessions is contained in the Commission's *Advance Report* to the NEC.

4) Fifteen members of the Commission met on April 30th and May 1st, 1990 at the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. A complete report on that meeting appears in the *Digest of Proceedings of the National Executive Committee, May 2-3, 1990*.

Legislative Appearances

A very important part of the work of the Economic staff is the preparation and presentation of Congressional testimony on issues affecting the economic well-being of America's veterans. During the period covered by this report, the Commission testified on seven separate occasions. A list of those hearings is as follows:

1) September 29, 1989; House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs; VA Loan Guaranty Program.

2) February 21, 1990; House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs; FY 1991 Budget Proposal for the VA Loan Guaranty Program.

3) April 9, 1990; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies; Budget Proposal for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service.

4) April 18, 1990; House Committee on Appropriations; Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies; Budget Proposal for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service.

5) April 25, 1990; House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment; Veterans Employment Programs in the Department of Labor.

6) April 26, 1990; House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs; VA Loan Guaranty Program.

7) May 11, 1990; Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; VA Loan Guaranty and Employment Initiatives.

The Economics staff prepared the Commission's portion of the testimony that was presented last September by the National Commander at a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs regarding The American Legion's goals and concerns, as well as the Legion's February appearance before the same Committees concerning the Administration's proposed FY 1991 budget for the VA and veterans' programs.

Administrative Activities

The Commission's staff of three (two professional and one secretarial) manage all of its activities and programs on a daily basis.

The staff's major responsibility is to promote employment and training opportunities for veterans at the national level. This is accomplished through the Commission's ongoing work with Congress and Federal agencies such as the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, Small Business Administration, and, to a lesser extent, the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Director and Assistant Director also represent The American Legion on the following: Executive Committee of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, as well as its Committee on Disabled Veterans; the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans Employment; the Veterans Committee of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies; and the Veterans Advisory Committees of the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management. They also act as advisors to the Legion's Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee.

Another staff responsibility is answering the large volume of mail that is received annually from veterans seeking information or assistance on issues which come under the Commission's jurisdiction. While the staff can neither place individual veterans in jobs nor represent them in labor disputes, the staff does provide information, guidance and, when appropriate, referral. Besides correspondence from individuals, the staff also receives and answers frequent requests and inquiries from government agencies, members of Congress, Congressional committees, private organizations, and other groups regarding veterans' economic issues.

One of the Commission's major programs is its Employer Awards Program, which is administered by the staff. Through this program The American Legion pays tribute to those employers across the country who have established outstanding records in the employment and retention of veterans, the disabled and older workers.

Publications

As discussed elsewhere in this report, the Commission does not place veterans in jobs, but rather, relies on a network of Employment Chairmen to assist individual veterans in finding employment.

In order to assist the Employment Chairmen to be as effective as possible, the staff provides them with pertinent information and guidance through the Commission's bi-monthly newsletter, *The Veteran's Economic Guardian*. They also provide articles on a routine basis to other Legion publications such as *The American Legion Magazine*, *ADVANCE*, and the *American Legion News Service*.

The Veteran's Economic Guardian is the only newsletter in the country that is devoted solely to veterans' economic issues. Currently this publication has a subscription rate of over 7,000 copies per issue.

Recently, the staff revised the Commission's *Manual for Employment Chairmen*. This manual contains information on employment resources in the community as well as national employment and training programs for veterans. It also contains tips on how to write a resume, prepare for a job interview, etc.

Employer of the Year Awards

Each year since 1969, the Legion's National Economic Commission has sponsored an Employer of the Year Awards Program. This program seeks to honor those employers across the country that have established an outstanding record in the employment and retention of veterans. Nominations for these awards are submitted by posts to their departments for review. Each department must then select what it feels is the most worthy nominee in the large employer category (those companies with more than 200 employees) and one in the small employer category (companies with 200 or fewer employees). These two nominations are then forwarded to the National Economic Commission prior to December 15th for final approval and the issuance of plaques. After the plaques are prepared, they are sent to the departments for presentation.

Prior to this year's Washington Conference, the chairman of the National Economic Commission, Joseph J. Frank (MO), appointed a five-person subcommittee to review all of the nominations that had been received during 1989 in the Employer of the Year Awards Program. The purpose of this subcommittee was to select a national winner and a runner-up in both the large and small employer categories. Those serving on the subcommittee were: James A. McMahon (ME), Chairman; E.C. Toppin (NC); Delbert D. Fuhrman (TX); L.A. "Tony" Santillanes (NM); and Don Cermele (NJ). Firman Henricks (IL), who was appointed the alternate to the subcommittee, did not serve as all of the other members were present.

The subcommittee, which was convened during the Washington Conference, met on Tuesday, February 27, 1990 to consider 31 employer nominations from 24 departments. Of those nominations, 19 were for small, and 12 were for large employers. The remaining five nominations (four large and one small) were, for one reason or another, ineligible for the national awards.

Prior to the meeting, the staff liaison to the subcommittee mailed copies of all nominations and supporting data to each subcommittee member. After a thorough review of this material, the Employer of the Year Subcommittee selected the following winners:

Small Employer

JIMCO, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK

Large Employer

Lockheed Aeromod Center, Inc., Greenville, SC

The subcommittee also selected two runners-up in the event that one of the winners was unable to send a representative to the National Convention to accept the award. The runners-up are as follows:

Small Employer

Pepsi Cola East, Huntington, WV

Large Employer

Newport Steel Corporation, Newport, KY

At the completion of their deliberations, the subcommittee discussed ways in which to improve departmental participation in the Employer Awards Program and also offered a set of guidelines which can be sent out to departments to provide guidance in selecting nominees. The staff has been given the responsibility of developing this into the form of a letter which will be mailed to all Department Commanders, Adjutants, Employment Chairmen and other interested parties.

Officials of the two winning companies have agreed to come to Indianapolis to accept the national awards. Upon their arrival in the convention city, each company will receive a small stipend to help defray the travel costs of their representatives.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

JAMES A. MCMAHON, Maine, *Chairman*

JAMES B. HUBBARD, Michigan, *Director*

The mission of the Committee is to promote employment and training opportunities for veterans. To accomplish this, the Committee works at the national level with Congress and various federal agencies. The Committee does not place veterans in jobs, but rather, relies on a network of Employment Chairmen to assist individual veterans in finding employment. These Employment Chairmen are appointed by their posts and departments. Occasionally, departments also appoint them at the county and district levels.

VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE

HENRY J. FIELD, South Carolina, *Chairman*

JAMES B. HUBBARD, Michigan, *Director*

This Committee is charged with the responsibility of promoting veterans' employment opportunities in federal government and for ensuring that agencies continue to observe all veterans' preference laws.

Federal Veterans' Economic Programs

The following is a brief overview of the activities of those Federal agencies, and their veterans' programs, with which the Commission works regularly.

Department of Labor: Unemployment and underemployment among veterans and non-veterans has continued to decrease over the past year. However, there are still some major problems.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterans constitute 13-14% of the nation's labor force. However, over 26% of all dislocated workers are veterans. Many of these veterans lost their jobs because of automation, robotics or because the employer went out of business for one reason or another.

Unfortunately, it is generally very difficult for the dislocated worker to find new employment that is suitable. This is because most of these individuals do not have the financial resources necessary either to obtain job training or to relocate to an area where employment might be available. The problems of these men and women are further exacerbated by the fact that many employers view them as older workers.

The Commission is also concerned about the employment of severely disabled veterans. According to data that were supplied by the Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, over two-thirds of all veterans who are 60% or more compensably disabled have completely dropped out of the labor market. This has occurred because many employers in both the public and private sectors have refused to make the necessary accommodations for their employment.

Another major concern of the Commission and the Department of Labor is homeless veterans. While there seems to be a vast disparity in the estimates of the number of homeless persons in this country, one thing the experts do agree on is that at least one-third are veterans. Furthermore, they believe that one-third of all homeless veterans served during the Vietnam era. The American Legion will continue to work with the Department of Labor and other Federal agencies that have the resources necessary to help homeless veterans to get off the streets and onto payrolls.

In the weeks and months ahead, the Commission will continue to work with the Labor Department to find solutions to these and other problems that affect veterans economically.

Department of the Treasury: The Economic Commission continues its active support of U.S. Savings Bonds, which have recently gained a new popularity because of a guaranteed minimum return for those who hold the bonds for five years or longer.

Because of Federal budget cuts, the U.S. Treasury Department can no longer afford to send each Legion Post promotional material on Savings Bonds. The Economic Commission, however, continues to provide Legionnaires with information on the value of these bonds through articles and public service advertisements in *The Veteran's Economic Guardian* and other Legion publications. At the 1989 National Convention, a representative of the Treasury Department presented the National Commander with a plaque in recognition of The American Legion's past support of Savings Bonds.

Department of Veterans Affairs: The loan guaranty program operated by the Department of Veterans has served more than 13 million veterans since its inception in 1944 by providing government guarantees in lieu of a down payment to qualified veterans when they purchase houses. Over the past decade inflation, rising interest rates, and national as well as regional recessions have forced the VA to absorb increasing program costs owing to high rates of default and foreclosure. Moreover, income from the VA's Direct Loan portfolio, which had helped to supplement the VA's Revolving Fund, has been depleted because the portfolio was sold off to private sector investors at heavily discounted prices. Proceeds from these sales were used to help offset growing Federal budget deficits. As a result, Congress has had to appropriate money each year since 1984 to keep the program solvent.

Public Law 101-237 created the Guaranty and Indemnity Fund to finance all operations of the program for loans closed on or after January 1, 1990 except for loans made on manufactured homes. The American Legion viewed passage of this legislation as an important milestone in the evolution of this benefit. The Guaranty and Indemnity Fund is funded by a fee paid concurrently by the veteran borrower and the government with the veteran contributing 1.25% of the loan as a fee and the government contributing .75% over a three-year period.

Office of Personnel Management: The Federal government is the largest employer in the country as well as the largest employer of veterans. The responsibility for ensuring that veterans receive the preference they have been granted by law is vested in the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

The Director of OPM, Constance Berry Newman, addressed the Commission during the Legion's Seventy-first National Convention. During her remarks she stated, "The Bush Administration has not forgotten America's veterans. On the contrary, the Administration understands the debt owed the men and women who have risked their lives for freedom. Just as veterans performed *their* duty, the President believes that our nation must meet *its* duty to you. To do less would be dishonorable."

Ms. Newman also stated that as the Director of this country's largest employer, one of the priorities would be to increase employment opportunities for women at all levels of the federal sector. She went on to say, however, "... I will not advance the cause of women at the expense of the veterans of this nation—period."

The following statistical summary appeared in OPM's annual report to Congress on veterans' employment in Federal government. This summary covers veteran hiring and promotion activities for FY '88.

- * Veterans hired totaled 50,497;
 - 39,555 of those were Vietnam-era veterans;
 - 8,315 were disabled; and
 - 3,365 of those were 30% or more disabled.
- * Veterans promoted totaled 108,606;
 - disabled veterans promoted numbered 15,088; and
 - 4,672 of those were 30% or more disabled.
- * 10,642 Veterans Readjustment Appointments were made, of which 38 percent (4,040) went to minorities.
- 3,365 appointments of 30% or more disabled veterans were made, of which 2,166 were made through the special noncompetitive authority.

Trends in veterans' employment in the Federal service indicate:

- A steady increase in 30 percent or more disabled veterans in the Federal workforce from 20,854 in FY 84 TO 27,191 FY 88;
- An increase in the number of Vietnam-era veterans from 315,328 to 362,734, since 1984; and
- A continuing decline in the number of veterans in the workforce. During the last five fiscal years, about 60 percent of all retirements were veterans. However, the 32.2 percent veterans' representation in the nonpostal Federal service continued to exceed the 15 percent veterans' employment in the civilian labor force.

The Veterans Preference Committee will continue to monitor these trends in the future. It will also continue to work with OPM to promote employment opportunities for veterans.

Postal Service: In its Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Plan report for FY '89, the U.S. Postal Service reported that as of September 23, 1988, it had a total of 778,518 employees. Of the number, 317,532 (40.8%) were veterans. That report went on to say that of that number, 81,787 (10.5%) were disabled veterans with 17,510 (2.2%) being rated at 30% or more.

The Veterans Preference Committee will continue to promote employment opportunities by veterans within the Postal Service

During the past year the Veterans Preference Committee participated in two award ceremonies whose purpose was to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the outstanding disabled employees of both the Federal government and the U.S. Postal Service. On both occasions the Committee presented each nominee with an American Flag that has been flown over the Capitol.

Small Business Administration: During fiscal year (FY) 1989, about 33% of all Small Business Administration's direct loans were made to veterans. This translates into 320 loans for a total of \$24 million. During the same period, 15% of the loans guaranteed by SBA were made to veterans, who received 2,686 loans totalling \$492 million. Vietnam-era veterans received \$311 million of 63% of the guaranteed loans made to veterans over the last year.

The average size of SBA loans to veterans during FY 1989 was \$183,172 for guaranty loans, and \$75,000 for direct loans. Loans to Vietnam-era veterans averaged \$70,329 for direct loans and \$174,513 for guaranty loans.

Vietnam veterans received \$20.5 million in direct loans or 28% of all SBA direct lending.

For FY 1989, SBA approved 89 Handicapped Assistance Loans (HAL) for a total of \$6.3 million. Nearly \$1.4 million or 18% of all HAL loans went to disabled veterans during FY 1989.

Through SBA's 8(a) Program, 1,007 contracts were awarded veteran-owned firms for a total of \$592.8 million, which represents 27% of the dollars awarded in that program.

Many small business contractors are unable to obtain work because of the unavailability for bonding. During FY 1989, veteran-owned firms obtained surety bond contracts totalling more than \$477 millions or 33% of the total dollar amount awarded. Vietnam veterans obtained \$107 million in surety bond contracts.

During FY 1989, 42,909 veterans received SBA-sponsored business training and 40,210 received SBA-sponsored counseling.

Conclusion

The Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of posts, districts, counties, departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate their continued support and involvement. Chairman Frank would also like to thank the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

FINANCE COMMISSION

GEORGE W. BOUCEK, Illinois, *Chairman*

WEBBER LAGRANGE, Indiana, *National Treasurer*

PAUL M. ALLEN, Minnesota, *Director*

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for submission to the National Executive Committee, the handling of funds under that budget, and the exercise of reasonable oversight to see that the various divisions and departments of the National Organization operate within the approved appropriations. The Finance Commission is composed of seven members. The National Adjutant serves as ex-officio secretary, and the National Commander and National Treasurer are ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are the Executive Directors of our Washington and Indianapolis Offices and the Finance Director, as well as our Liaison observers from the National Executive Committee.

The National Organization had an operating surplus of \$253,202 for the year 1989. In 1989, we received \$5.50 dues per member, which is allocated as follows: \$2.75 to the General Fund; \$2.50 to The American Legion Magazine; and \$.25 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The income of the National Organization is derived from annual membership dues, interest on investments, magazine advertisements, Emblem sales, contributions, and other approved activities.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the auditor's report, and in addition, your attention is directed to the reports of Committees and trusts which come under the jurisdiction of this Commission. These reports can be found elsewhere in the program:

- American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
- American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation
- American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee
- American Legion Emblem Committee
- American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust

THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

	December 31—				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Total assets.....	\$7,513,872	\$7,457,123	\$7,437,287	\$7,410,175	\$7,351,453
Investments—at cost	7,400,529	7,377,303	7,372,598	7,325,349	7,260,235
Interest income	673,095	594,968	585,017	628,683	639,808
Expenses	27,180	23,147	29,278	25,706	31,237
Excess income over expense.....	645,915	571,821	555,739	602,977	608,571
Funds transferred to The American Legion	598,541	583,324	577,471	573,282	615,096
Average yield on book value of investments (percent) ...	8.58	8.65	8.29	8.47	8.90

EMBLEM COMMITTEE

FRANK JOHNSTON, Illinois, *Chairman*ALFRED L. LANKENAU, Indiana, *General Manager*

Meetings

The Emblem Committee has met twice since our last report. The meeting of the Committee in August, 1989, in Baltimore, Maryland, was to consider bids, award contracts for the 1990 requirements and to carefully study operating policy. The second meeting, in May of 1990, studied general operations and promotional plans.

Catalog

The 1990 National Emblem catalog combined American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion merchandise in sixty-four (64) pages. The catalog, with order blanks bound into the book, was shipped using a preprinted indicia on the back cover and a simple mailing strip. The catalog was mailed to all Departments, Posts, and Units (approximately 65,000 copies) as soon as it was received from the printer. An additional quantity of approximately 30,000 was distributed to individual members in response to their requests and at department conventions where we have had Emblem Sales displays.

Advertising

Advertising in THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE during this past year has been centered on one-page four-color ads featuring jackets, flags and military memorabilia. The military memorabilia ad was quite successful. Having learned from several minor mistakes associated with it, we plan to restructure the offering and continue promoting that type of merchandise. Jackets and flags continue to be successful and will be promoted.

In addition, we have modified the brochure targeted to personal items for the individual Legionnaire. 100,000 are now being sent to new members as they join through the DMS program. At this writing, it is too early to judge results. Our previous use of this flyer was successful as many customers acquired in this fashion have made multiple purchases.

A circular promoting quantity purchases of flags for Memorial Day was mailed to all Post Commanders and Adjutants. Returns from this inexpensive vehicle warrant continuation of this type of promotion. Future mailings are scheduled.

The Emblem Committee continues to regularly review the advertising program.

Department Convention Exhibit and Display

The exhibit and display of the official emblem merchandise at 14 department conventions was conducted during the year of 1989. These exhibits were at the invita-

tion of department officials for the purpose of good-will and service to the individual Legionnaires. We have exhibited at 12 conventions in 1990 also by invitation.

Each purchaser benefits by the division's economical direct sales program and quantity purchasing power. The net profit derived from sales is paid into the general fund, which is expended under the direct supervision of the Finance Commission to promote the aims and programs of the organization, thereby further benefiting the individual members.

Sales Data

The gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire year of 1989 and for the first six months of 1990, for the Emblem Sales Division are as follows:

January 1, 1989—December 31, 1989 (Twelve Months)

Gross sales	\$5,923,138
Cost of goods sold.....	3,426,986
Overhead	1,681,240
Operating profit including discounts taken	814,912

The number of individual orders processed during the twelve month period was 67,683. The number of individual orders processed annually has increased at the rate of 7+% per annum since 1987.

January 1, 1990—June 30, 1990 (Six Months)

Gross sales	\$3,403,651
Cost of goods sold.....	1,887,060
Overhead	914,852
Operating profit including discounts taken	601,739

THE AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMMITTEE

JEROME P. DOBEL, JR., Missouri, *Chairman*

G. PAUL DUNN, Oklahoma, *Assistant Director, Membership Services*

The American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee provides oversight for the several life insurance plans currently offered by The American Legion and is assigned to the National Finance Commission.

The original plan, ALLIP (American Legion Life Insurance Plan), is now in its 32nd year of service to Legionnaires. The plan was officially approved by the National Executive Committee in February 1958 and has provided more than \$73 million in benefits to beneficiaries of Legionnaires. ALLIP, is a level premium, annually renewable decreasing term policy with benefits based upon the age of the insured at time of death. All Legionnaires under age 70 are eligible to apply under liberal underwriting requirements.

The Committee has periodically sought approval from the National Executive Committee to increase the maximum number of units for which members could apply under ALLIP. Effective January 1, 1990 the maximum number of available units was increased from fourteen (14) to sixteen (16). Legionnaires who were eligible for a maximum of \$128,800 protection before, can now apply for coverage up to \$147,200 in The American Legion Life Insurance Plan.

The National Executive Committee passed a resolution to grant a 15 percent "across the board increase" in all benefits for the calendar year 1990. This is the 22nd time in the 32 year history in which such an increase has been made. The cost per unit has never increased. It remains only \$24.00 per year.

The plan is underwritten by Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The coverage is arranged under a group policy for members in all states except permanent residents of Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin who are insured under individual policies. The United States Life Insurance Company in New York City insures permanent residents of New York State and Puerto Rico.

The American Legion Life Insurance Trust supports several National programs which are among the most prominent and visible activities of The American Legion. The programs are listed below with the corresponding funding for 1990.

American Legion Baseball \$463,373, National Oratorical Contest \$235,800. This includes the award for the Oratorical Contests as follows: 1st place \$18,000; 2nd place \$16,000; 3rd place \$14,000; and 4th place \$12,000.

In addition, each of the Department winners attending the regional contests receives a \$1,000 scholarship award. Junior Uniformed Musical Groups, \$20,000, for participation at the National Convention, Boy's Nation \$121,535, Boy Scout of the Year Scholarship Award, \$14,000. An award of \$2,000 per year up to four years, not to exceed \$8,000, for pursuit of a course of study beyond high school. Three second place awards in the amount of \$2,000 each are granted also. Department Service Officer Training Program, \$33,000.

These requests for grants are approved by The American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee, the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee.

Claims

The primary feature of The American Legion life insurance plan is the benefits paid to beneficiaries of deceased insured Legionnaires. In 31 years, claims have been paid amounting to more than \$60,000,000 in benefits. These benefits were paid at no cost to the National Organization of The American Legion and no expenses to the general membership, other than certificate-policyholders. It can be properly reported that the insurance plan has proven to be a self-sustaining program. There is little doubt that by the end of 1990, the total benefits paid will be well over seventy-three million dollars.

Claims Report January 1, 1989

1958.....	\$78,790.00
1959.....	159,410.00
1960.....	221,545.00
1961.....	257,970.00
1962.....	393,020.00
1963.....	561,574.00
1964.....	672,250.00
1965.....	730,910.00
1966.....	976,474.00
1967.....	1,230,968.00
1968.....	1,376,243.00
1969.....	1,489,100.00
1970.....	1,672,521.00
1971.....	1,955,909.00
1972.....	1,839,294.00
1973.....	1,917,345.00
1974.....	2,151,480.00
1975.....	2,096,983.00
1976.....	2,598,185.00
1977.....	2,662,192.00
1978.....	3,215,425.00
1979.....	2,989,141.00
1980.....	3,263,408.00
1981.....	3,855,550.00
1982.....	4,089,606.00
1983.....	4,467,599.00
1984.....	4,201,825.00
1985.....	3,983,438.00
1986.....	4,125,003.00
1987.....	4,320,547.00
1988.....	3,957,914.00
1989.....	4,038,439.00

Total.....	71,459,059.00
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Note: Total does not include claims paid thus far for 1990.

Premium Growth

The premium growth is even more remarkable. Premiums or contributions paid for life insurance protection exceeded well over \$4,000,000 for calendar years 1977,

1978, 1979, and over \$5,000,000 for 1980 and 1981. In each of the past eight years the total premium has exceeded \$6,000,000.

Premium Growth 1958-1989

1958.....	\$342,000.00
1959.....	390,000.00
1960.....	414,000.00
1961.....	450,000.00
1962.....	840,000.00
1963.....	1,178,000.00
1964.....	1,300,000.00
1965.....	1,412,305.00
1966.....	1,652,883.00
1967.....	1,829,728.00
1968.....	2,016,073.00
1969.....	2,066,583.00
1970.....	2,174,070.00
1971.....	2,699,473.00
1972.....	2,919,409.00
1973.....	3,216,594.00
1974.....	3,415,618.00
1975.....	3,539,989.00
1976.....	3,882,104.00
1977.....	4,367,713.00
1978.....	4,641,752.00
1979.....	4,854,524.00
1980.....	5,459,932.00
1981.....	5,834,993.00
1982.....	6,066,474.00
1983.....	6,413,891.00
1984.....	6,559,513.00
1985.....	6,698,701.00
1986.....	6,770,130.00
1987.....	6,868,617.00
1988.....	6,743,296.00
1989.....	6,732,520.00

Each year, on or about October 15, all insured Legionnaires are requested to report their next year's membership card number when renewing their coverage for the next calendar year. For further information, write to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, 4870 Street Road, Trevoise, PA 19049, or call 1-800-542-5547.

In addition, another life insurance plan was developed in 1987 and is briefly described below.

ALL GI

American Legion Life Guaranteed Issue—a custom-designed whole life policy with cash and loan values. This plan also offers accidental death benefits. ALL GI is issued with level premium and level benefits. The plan is available to more mature Legionnaires and their spouses and is provided on a guaranteed issue basis. You cannot be turned down for this plan, there are no medical exams for health questions.

For more information on ALL GI, call 1-800-523-5758 ext. 3189 or write to Union Fidelity Life Insurance Co., Union Fidelity Office Square, Trevoise, PA 19049.

The Life Insurance and Trust Committee on behalf of the National Organization is proud to make these insurance plans available to our fellow members.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

WILLIAM M. DETWEILER, Louisiana, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

The following annual report covers the activities of the Foreign Relations Commission and Council of The American Legion for the 1989-1990 program year ending June 30, 1990.

Overview

The American Legion seeks the development of a consistent, viable U.S. foreign policy based upon worldwide U.S. political, economic, and security interests.

By Resolution 419, the American Legion supports a foreign policy to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy and resisting Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism. Such foreign policy should be based on the following principles:

- Implementation of a strong partisan foreign policy, reflecting America's responsibilities as leader of the World and true to our heritage and traditions.

- Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.

- Active promotion of democracy.

- Realization that the Soviet Union seeks world domination and is conducting an "undeclared war" against the Free World, using a variety of means ranging from propaganda to armed aggression.

- Participation in collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.

- Provision and maintenance of economic, military, and humanitarian assistance to friendly nations to promote U.S. interests.

- Support for strategically important resistance movements struggling against totalitarianism.

- Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security by increasing the stability of nuclear deterrent forces.

- Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking, which challenge the civilized world.

- Support for responsible international organizations, which are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.

- Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.

- Recognition that the world operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national interests.

- Recognition that the President must be the architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while the Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight.

We urge the United States to intensify its commitment as leader of the Free World. If we falter or grow weary, there is no center of power capable of sustaining Western ideals and institutions. To ensure a peaceful and stable future, we must reestablish the bipartisan consensus on foreign policy that served America so well in the period from World War II to the mid-1960s. We believe our members and most Americans are ready to recapture the spirit of unity and commitment which alone can see us through.

Now that unprecedented changes are sweeping through the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, it appears that democracy and free enterprise are becoming much more widely accepted around the world. It is still important that the world posture of the United States be clear, consistent, and convincing—both to our friends and our potential enemies. To this end, it is vital that The American Legion and other patriotic organizations continue to provide our government with advice and support which will enable it not only to maintain the security of the United States but also to furnish the Free World with the Leadership necessary to promote harmony and democracy while defeating the purposes of international communism.

General Foreign Policy

Resolution 23—"Contraband Drugs"—Urges maximum efforts be made to prevent illegal entry into the United States of any foreign commodity listed as "contraband" and special attention should be given to contraband drugs. Further, urges the U.S. Government to efficiently apply U.S. laws which provide that foreign nations must reasonably cooperate with U.S. drug control programs if they are to receive U.S. foreign aid. (Fall NEC Meeting 1989)

Resolution 139—"OPEC Cartel Practices"—U.S. Government should denounce the current practices of the OPEC cartel as being detrimental to the well-being and national security of this nation. The President and the Congress should enact incentives and encourage further development of our oil-producing areas and continue seeking alternate sources of energy. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 188—"Prohibiting Sales of U.S. Factories"—Congress should pass legislation that prohibits the selling of U.S. factories to the Chinese government or any communist governments. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 241—"Exportation of Chemical and Biological Warfare Technology"—The President and the Congress should establish tight controls over chemical weapons technology and materials and seek the undiluted acceptance of these controls to prevent the exporting of such technology and materials to radical countries. The United States Government should continue to seek multi-national negotiations to ban the use of chemical and biological weapons. Any such treaties or agreements should be equitable and verifiable. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 417—"United Nations"—Urges the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes. Further, urges the Administration to continue to take necessary action to eliminate espionage operations against the United States at the United Nations. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 418—"Terrorism"—Urges the U.S. Government to assign the highest priority to combatting terrorism and to retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of terrorist acts. The news media should be solicited to exercise responsibility and restraint in recounting acts of terrorism in order to reduce their propaganda effect and to report those claiming responsibility only after the proper law enforcement agencies have apprehended the perpetrators. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 419—"United States Foreign Policy"—We believe that the objectives of U.S. foreign policy must be to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy and resisting Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism. U.S. foreign policy must embody the following principles:

1. Implementation of a strong bipartisan foreign policy, reflecting America's responsibilities as leader of the Free World and true to our heritage and traditions.
2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.
3. Active promotion of democracy.
4. Realization that the Soviet Union seeks world domination and is conducting an undeclared war against the Free World, using a variety of means ranging from propaganda to armed aggression.
5. Participation in collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.
6. Provision and maintenance of economic, military, and humanitarian assistance to friendly nations to promote U.S. interests.
7. Support for strategically important resistance movements struggling against totalitarianism.
8. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security by increasing the stability of nuclear deterrent forces.
9. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking, which challenge the civilized world.
10. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interest.
11. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.
12. Recognition that the world operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interests.
13. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while the Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 420—"Bipartisan Foreign Policy"—Urges the President and the Congress to reestablish a long-term, comprehensive bipartisan consensus on foreign policy goals and methods of operations and to restore the primacy of the President to his rightful constitutional powers as chief architect of foreign policy. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 421—"Foreign Aid"—Urges the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of achieving U.S. foreign national security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve economic growth and military security. The American Legion will endeavor to increase public awareness of how foreign aid serves U.S. national interests. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 422—"The Information War"—The United States Government should provide adequate funds to increase and expand its current efforts in developing an effective international program to provide other nations objective news, information about the blessings of the free enterprise system, and accurate reporting of communism's suppression of freedom and international aggression. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 423—"Aiding Freedom Fighters"—Supports the provision of adequate U.S. training, military equipment, and humanitarian aid to foreign freedom fighters who:

1. Seem capable of replacing or moderating an imposed Marxist-Leninist regime.
2. Pursue policies consistent with U.S. national interests.
3. Are operating in a country having significant importance to U.S. national interests. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 424—"Nuclear Proliferation"—Urges the U.S. Government to take all reasonable steps to halt nuclear proliferation and states that we will inform our membership and the American people about this crucial topic. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 425—"Representatives of Foreign Governments"—Expresses concern about the major role of former senior government official or former Members of Congress serving as foreign representatives. Opposes such undue influence and urges appropriate action to control such practices, including post-employment restrictions, prohibitions on use of non-public information concerning U.S. Government negotiating positions, restriction on floor privileges, and stronger reporting requirements. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 481—"Successor Generation"—Urges public and private organizations in all member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to take coordinated actions, particularly in the field of education, to assure that leaders, teachers, and citizens of their countries are given the opportunity to understand the concepts of western political and economic freedoms. (65th National Convention)

Resolution 532—"Presidential Military Initiatives to Protect U.S. National Interests"—Supports prompt military action by the President to protect U.S. national interests and recommends that the President expeditiously report such activity to the Congress and the American people. (68th National Convention)

African Affairs

Resolution 2—"South African Sanctions"—Urges the U.S. Government to remove all economic sanctions against South Africa and not to apply any additional sanctions in the future. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 410—"South Africa"—Urges the U.S. Government to adopt a policy toward South Africa of supporting moderates who seek equality and representative democracy. The United States should respect the sovereignty of the Government of South Africa by recognizing that the problem of South Africa in dismantling apartheid is primarily one that must be solved by the South Africans themselves. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 413—"Namibia"—Supports increased efforts to bring about a negotiated agreement on Namibian independence which is acceptable to South Africa, the United States and also to the population of the country. The agreement should provide for free, fair and representative elections, and the withdrawal of South African forces and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 415—"Mozambique"—The U.S. Government should cease and desist in its efforts to approach the Government of Mozambique and, instead, concentrate on encouragement of the National Resistance of Mozambique (RENAMO), while urging RENAMO to practice internationally accepted standards of warfare. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 416—"Angola"—Urges the United States to support strongly the UNITA movement with military weapons and other means to secure freedom from Soviet and Cuban control of Angola. (70th National Convention)

European Affairs

Resolution 66—"Testing of Anti-Ballistic Missile Components"—Affirms that testing of anti-ballistic missile components does not violate the terms of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. (69th National Convention)

Resolution 70—"Bering Straits Islands"—Opposes the transfer of any of the following islands (Wrangell, Bennett, Henrietta, Jeannette, Herald) to the Soviet

Union as part of an arms agreement or any other treaty or accord. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 107—"Soviet Imperialism"—Urges the American people to continue resisting Soviet imperialism, always keeping in mind the long record of human misery it has caused. Additionally, the U.S. Government must continue its leadership of the Free World in the struggle to protect and promote freedom and democracy. Further, the American Legion must continue to educate and to inform the American people of the Soviet threat and of the need to resist that threat whenever and wherever it may appear. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 190—"Soviet Renouncement of the Hitler-Stalin Pact"—Calls upon the President to encourage formally that the Soviet Union officially renounce the Hitler-Stalin Pact and restore the independence and sovereignty of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 210—"U.S.-Soviet Relations"—The U.S. Government should welcome any real, substantive changes in Soviet policies that remove Soviet dominance over other nations, terminate export of revolution and terrorism, and reduce Soviet military forces to a reasonable defense posture capable only of self-defense. The U.S. Government should base its actions on actual Soviet deeds, not Soviet statements of intentions. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 211—"Conventional Arms Control in Europe"—Supports the concept of conventional arms control in Europe, provided that any negotiated agreement establishes equality between Warsaw Pact and NATO conventional forces, contains effective measures for verification, and contributes to effective deterrence across the entire spectrum of conventional and nuclear conflict. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 243—"Anti-Ballistic Missile Defenses"—Calls upon the President to instruct his arms negotiators to insist that the Soviets dismantle or destroy the Krasnoyarsk radar and cease construction of any other similar radars in order to comply with the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 308—"Strategic Nuclear Policy"—Supports:

1. A United States nuclear deterrent force TRIAD at least equivalent to Soviet nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring Soviet attack or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.

2. Continuation of United States underground nuclear testing as necessary to modernize nuclear offensive and defensive forces and to ensure the reliability of existing nuclear weapons.

3. Verifiable implementation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

4. Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and the United States to equal levels, resulting in stable mutual deterrence at lower levels of armaments and with a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.

5. Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include on-site inspection by both sides.

6. Full integration of nuclear arms control into national security planning by the United States and its allies to ensure strategic stability and credible deterrence. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 354—"Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty"—The American Legion supports Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe in their endeavor. (65th National Convention)

Resolution 406—"Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)"—Supports a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), including a 50 percent reduction to equal levels in strategic offensive arms, provided the treaty is equal, verifiable, and enhances the security of the United States and its allies. Further, that the Strategic Defense Initiative must be traded as a bargaining chip. Finally, that adequate steps must be taken to maintain credible deterrence and war-fighting capability across the entire spectrum of conflict: nuclear, conventional, and chemical. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 407—"Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty"—Supports the INF Treaty, while urging the Executive and Legislative Branches to develop a coordinated bipartisan national security policy to ensure continued deterrence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact in the nuclear, chemical, and conventional fields in cooperation with our NATO allies. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 408—"Turkey"—Supports aid to the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement, without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and

urges that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 409—"Halting the Technology Flow to the Soviet Bloc"—The Defense, Commerce, and State Departments should jointly develop a coordinated program to stop the illegal flow of technology to any foreign country. As a minimum, the program must include:

1. The reclassification of important technology secrets so as to prevent open disclosure of information vital to our national security.
2. More stringent export licensing controls and mandatory tracing of all sensitive technology equipment to insure it reaches the proper destination.

Further, the Commerce Department is urged to strengthen enforcement of their regulations by requiring the presentation of Shippers Export Declarations to Customs prior to loading the cargo for export from the United States of America. Finally, that we petition Congress to fund and adequately staff the U.S. Customs Service, which has the task of enforcing the export controls and examining commodities and technical data intended for export from the United States of America. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 411—"Canada"—The U.S. Government should pursue policies toward Canada which will provide for free trade, continued military cooperation, and cooperation in all endeavors which benefit both nations. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 412—"Poland"—Encourages democracy for Poland's citizens and opposes colonial exploitation by the Soviet Union of Poland. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 513—"North Atlantic Treaty Organization"—Urges the United States Government to maintain the forward deployment of U.S. troops in NATO and not to reduce them except in the context of agreement with NATO and of Warsaw Pact force reductions achieved through the upcoming Conventional Stability Talks. Further, that we urge the U.S. Government to encourage our NATO allies to continue to improve their conventional forces and take those actions necessary to meet any threats to the security and stability of Europe and areas of common interest outside the North Atlantic Treaty area. (70th National Convention)

Far Eastern Affairs

Resolution 119—"Missing Service Personnel Act"—Supports legislation that would disallow the passage of time as the sole basis of a death declaration. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 123—"Military Sales to the Republic of China"—Supports the defense provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act and urges the United States Government to make available to the Republic of China such defense articles, services, and technology to enable the Republic of China to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 124—"Republic of China"—Supports international economic, military, and political cooperation with the Republic of China and urges the United States Government to take necessary measures to increase participation by the Republic of China in international organizations. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 125—"Republic of Korea"—Urges the United States to increase its military and economic aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development, and promote the cause of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Asian regions. Further, that the United States provide strong, flexible military forces in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea. Finally, that the United States bring pressure to bear on Communist North Korea to give up the construction of the dam. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 126—"Military Sales to Mainland China"—Urges the United States Government to refrain from the transfer of military and dual-use equipment and technology to the Chinese Communists. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 185—"Support for Democracy in Mainland China"—Expresses our sympathies and support to the freedom-loving people of Mainland China. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 285—"Missing Service Personnel Act"—Goes on record in support of House Resolution 1730. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 288—"Support 'Empty Chair' Program (POW/MIA)"—Urges the National Commander to encourage posts, units, districts and departments to implement the Empty Chair Program at all official meetings as a continual physical

symbol of the POW/MIAs and that at each chair a POW/MIA flag be displayed. (67th National Convention)

Resolution 294—"United Nations Action on POW/MIA Issue"—Urges the United States Government to serve notice that unless the United Nations is able to secure a satisfactory accounting of our POWs and MIAs, the United States will reduce its share of the United Nations budget from the current 25% to 10%. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 303—"Dealing With Vietnam on the POW/MIA Issue"—Opposes any proposal that the United States give diplomatic recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information concerning our POW/MIAs. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 304—"POW/MIA"—Urges the United States Government to continue assigning highest priority to resolve the status of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Indochina: Further, that we reject any attempt by the Government of Vietnam, or others, to link resolution of the issue to political matters which divide our countries, and call upon them to honor their pledges to cooperate fully and to exert every possible effort to resolve this humanitarian issue, thereby resolving the primary bilateral obstacle to improved relations between our two peoples. Finally, urges the United States Government to ensure this issue remains one of the highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any American who may still be prisoner in Indochina, the fullest possible accounting of those still missing, and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 356—"Department POW/MIA Committees"—Applauds the greatly increased POW/MIA efforts by the Departments. Encourages and supports all Departments in operating POW/MIA Committees, which play a vital role in creating public awareness of the POW/MIA issue. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 401—"Korean Conflict POW/MIAs"—Urges that the United States Government pursue resolution of unanswered questions concerning those live POWs and Missing in Action as a result of the Korean Conflict, that the United States seek the cooperation of relevant governments to help answer these questions, and that any American remains be returned for honorable burial in the land they defended, the country they served. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 402—"The Philippines Armed Forces"—Urges that the U.S. Government adopt a long-term policy supporting the armed forces of the Philippines in material and training so they can adequately counter the well-organized and well-supported communist insurgency forces. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 403—"Philippines"—Urges the U.S. Government to pursue policies toward the Philippines which will permit continued U.S. use of Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, encourage the strengthening of democracy, promote economic development, and provide material aid to defeat the communist insurgency. Further, urges the Philippine Government, in a spirit of friendship and comradeship, to pursue policies which will encourage democracy, economic development, national security, and continued cooperation with the United States. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 404—"Japan"—Urges the U.S. Government to make a determined effort to encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense and to develop equitable trading practices between Japan and the United States. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 426—"POW/MIA Postage Stamp"—The American Legion endorses and will work actively for the issuance by the U.S. Postal Service of a POW/MIA stamp bearing the logo of the National League of POW/MIA Families. (67th National Convention)

Resolution 433—"11 POW/MIA Legislative Priorities"—Urges legislative committees of departments, districts, and posts to include as one of their legislative priorities: "A complete accounting of our MIAs and POWs and the American Legion will not rest until such accounting is completed." (67th National Convention)

Resolution 514—"Amerasian Children in Vietnam"—Supports a responsible and orderly program to bring those interested and eligible Amerasian children from Vietnam. (70th National Convention)

Inter-American Affairs

Resolution 24—"Reexamination of Panama Canal Treaties"—Requests the President of the United States to call upon the U.S. Senate to promptly undertake intensive hearings, with full debate, for the purpose of reexamining the 1977 Treaties with Panama, our rights and commitments thereunder, with an eye to recommend-

ing renegotiating or renouncing them after having resolved once and for all the contradictions presently encumbering said Treaties. (Full NEC Meeting—1988)

Resolution 25—"Restoring Democracy to Panama"—The United States Government, working in conjunction with Latin American nations if feasible, should take appropriate action to assist the Panamanian people in restoring democracy to their country. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 289—"Inter-American Development Bank"—Urges the United States Government to provide ample and adequate funds for the Inter-American Development Bank so that during the rest of this century the IDB might make strategic infrastructure development loans which would result in increased export sales of U.S.-made goods, helping eliminate our balance of trade problems, restore a non-drug based Latin American economy and restore, throughout Latin America, respect for, and confidence in our way of life. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 343—"Referendum for Puerto Rico"—Congress should promptly complete legislation to provide a referendum in Puerto Rico concerning the future status of the island. The referendum is to provide the following options: (1) complete independence, (2) statehood, or (3) continue commonwealth status. The Government of the United States should act promptly to carry out the will of the Puerto Rican people that will have been expressed in the referendum. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 385—"Panama Canal"—Urges:

1. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure Panama will be able to operate the Panama Canal efficiently after Panama assumes control.

2. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure that the Panama Canal is operated efficiently and in a manner consistent with U.S. national security interests.

3. Construction of a new canal or major improvements in the existing Panama Canal should be consistent with U.S. national security interests.

4. Continued U.S.-Panamanian military cooperation through the U.S. Southern Command is essential to help protect evolving democratic nations in the area and the Panama Canal.

5. The United States should encourage democratic evolution in Panama to help provide political stability and a better, freer life for Panamanians. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 389—"Costa Rica"—Urges that the United States should provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain economic prosperity and any type of security assistance requested by Costa Rica to defend its democratic system. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 390—"Cuba"—Urges the U.S. Government to continue economic sanctions against Cuba, maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, continue intelligence over-flights over Cuba, and take whatever steps are necessary to halt Cuban export of revolution to other nations in Latin America by diplomacy, economic assistance, security assistance, or, as a last resort, direct U.S. military action. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 391—"El Salvador"—Urges the U.S. Government to provide economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased guerrillas. Further, that the U.S. Government be urged to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist insurgency in El Salvador. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 392—"Guatemala"—Urges the U.S. Government to continue trying to influence the Guatemalan government to evolve toward a democratic orientation while providing improved political, economic, and social conditions for the people. Further, that the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 393—"Honduras"—Urges the United States to encourage development of a free, democratic, more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance and cooperation with Honduras to prevent the further spread of communist insurgency in Central America. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 394—"Mexico"—Urges the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Mexico-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere. The U.S. Government should provide a greatly expanded number of scholarships of Mexicans, particularly those lacking funds to attend undergraduate and appropriate vocational-technical programs, provided said students promise to return to Mexico after completing their education. A student exchange program between Mexico and the United States should be initiated to acquaint the future leaders of both countries with their neighbors. In all economic transactions with Mexico (espe-

cially those dealing with procurement of petroleum products and other sources of energy) the U.S. Government should provide Mexico equal or greater consideration as compared to other nations supplying the same products. The U.S. Government should seek to develop a common approach to Central America and to encourage an awareness on the part of the Government of Mexico as to the ultimate security threat to Mexico. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 395—"Nicaragua"—Urges the U.S. Government to:

1. Oppose the Marxist-Leninist type government being imposed on the people of Nicaragua, with a view to help Nicaraguans replace it with one chosen by the people, through free elections, according to democratic principles.
2. Seek to isolate the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and aid the Nicaraguan freedom fighters in their struggle against tyranny.
3. Provide whatever means are necessary to achieve the above objectives.
4. Invite the other free nations of the Americas to join in this effort through the Organization of American States, or individually, as a matter vital to their survival as free and independent nations. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 396—"Inter-American Security"—Urges the U.S. Government to adopt the following policies toward Latin America:

1. The United States has a vital national interest in helping our Latin American allies create stable, prosperous, free societies.
2. The United States must be willing to devote the necessary resources to achieve this goal.
3. Whenever it accords with U.S. interests, the United States should channel its efforts through multilateral means such as the Organization of American States and the Rio Treaty.
4. If compelling circumstances dictate otherwise, the United States must take whatever unilateral actions are required to achieve its national security objectives. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 399—"Central America"—Supports the Jackson Plan and urge the Congress to fully fund it as a matter of vital national interest. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 400—"Caribbean Basin"—Urges the American people to (1) make those necessary sacrifices to stop communist expansionism in the Caribbean Basin, (2) support the U.S. Government's efforts to prevent the Marxist takeover of any country in the Caribbean Basin by subversion or armed aggression and to promote free elections of governments to represent the people of those countries. Further, that the Caribbean Basin Initiative be fully implemented and expanded to permit duty free access to the U.S. market for all Caribbean Basin products for a 12-year period, thus encouraging productive activity to promote economic growth. The United States should provide economic and security assistance as needed to help develop prosperous, democratic societies in the region. The U.S. Government should support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations at the college and high school levels and increased support for primary education to promote literacy. (70th National Convention)

Middle Eastern Affairs

Resolution 177—"The United States Warship the Vincennes"—Commends Commander Will Rogers for his positive action in a dangerous situation. Urges that the United States government make no effort at reparations or restitution to any person or government until the Iranian government makes restitution to the hostages of the United States that were imprisoned for over a year by that government and reparations are paid for the United States Marines killed in Beirut, Lebanon. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 384—"Afghanistan"—Urges the United States and other Free World nations to provide adequate humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees and military aid to Afghan freedom fighters as they struggle to eject all Soviet influence from their country. (70th National Convention)

Resolution 397—"Middle East"—Urges the U.S. Government to adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

1. A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab States.
2. Exclusion of the Soviet Union from the region.
3. A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States.
4. Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

5. Resolution of the Iraq-Iran War without Iran or Iraq being enabled to conquer or dominate other nations in the region. (70th National Convention)
Resolution 398—"Libya"—Urges the U.S. Government to combat Libyan terrorism and aggression by all means necessary. (70th National Convention)

POW/MIA Activities

The American Legion continued its dedicated efforts to help resolve the POW/MIA issue. The Special POW/MIA Committee planned and coordinated activities including:

July: Staff attended annual meeting of National League of POW/MIA Families.

August: Mailing sent to chairmen.

September: National Convention adopted one resolution. Held POW/MIA Update and Coordination meeting at Convention, featuring report by Colonel Joseph Schlatter, Defense Intelligence Agency. POW/MIA Information Table at Convention increased POW/MIA awareness of delegates. "Empty Chair" displayed during Convention session to highlight concern. Petitions mailed to Hanoi and to Postmaster General.

October: Mailed convention results to chairmen.

November: National Commander visited League of Families' office and received POW/MIA briefings at the Pentagon from the Defense Intelligence Agency. Staff assisted the Public Relations Division in writing a speech on the POW/MIA issue.

December: National Commander visited Central Identification Laboratory and Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Hawaii. Staff attended meeting with General John Vessey, USA (Ret.), Special Presidential Emissary on POW/MIA Affairs.

January: Advance article published.

February: POW/MIA Update conducted at Washington Conference. Speakers were Mr. Peter Watson, Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council and Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths of the National League of Families. Special POW/MIA Committee held meeting to assess 1989 activities and plan the program for 1990.

March: Mailed Washington Conference results to Chairmen.

May: Produced postcards for mailing to Vietnam and North Korea. Sent mailing to chairmen.

Support by National Commander Epling

The Foreign Relations Commission deeply appreciates the outstanding leadership in the field of foreign relations exercised by National Commander Epling. He worked extensively to develop bipartisan support for democracy, development, and security in Central America. He gave strong support to the POW/MIA program. He placed emphasis on foreign relations in his monthly Commander's Message in The American Legion Magazine, speeches, press conferences, and press releases. He took advantage of his trips to Central America, the Far East, Latin America, and Europe to study key issues of U.S. foreign policy. The National Commander explained the Legion's positions on foreign affairs in meetings with Department of State officials and numerous members of Congress. National Commander Epling's leadership and personal efforts greatly enhanced the Foreign Relations Program.

Commission Meetings

71st National Convention: During a joint meeting with The National Security Commission, Lieutenant General Thomas W. Kelly, USA, Director of Operations, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, explained the role of the Department of Defense in drug interdiction. He emphasized that this was a new mission for the armed forces and, therefore, required new ways of thinking and applying military capabilities to grapple with a major societal problem that undercuts U.S. national security. General Kelly reviewed various military tasks and capabilities being used in the battle to control illegal narcotics. Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Fernandez-Conte, USA, analyzed the situation in Nicaragua. He described in military might assembled by the Sandinista government and explained in detail the preparations for the upcoming elections and their importance for the future of Nicaragua. Mr. Lawrence Robinson, Country Officer, Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, presented an update on the situations in the People's Republic of China and the Philippines. He analyzed the competing factions within the PRC government and how their interac-

tions produced the massacre of students in Beijing. Mr. Robinson also pointed out the serious political, economic, social, and military challenges confronting the Aquino government in the Philippines, complicated by the upcoming negotiations with the United States regarding renewal of base rights for Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base.

Fall National Executive Committee Meeting: The Foreign Relations Commission met at National Headquarters on October 17-19, 1989 to consider four resolutions and to discuss pertinent issues of foreign relations. Topics discussed included U.S. relations with Mexico, Central America, and Panama; U.S.-Soviet relations; and the POW/MIA issue. The meeting concluded with advance planning for the Washington Conference.

The Commission met jointly with the National Security Commission to see a video tape on Soviet Military Power. This excellent tape was produced by the Department of Defense. The Commission also saw a video tape of the pre-convention trip sponsored by the National Security Commission before the 71st National Convention.

The Foreign Relations Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, February 26 and Wednesday, February 28, 1990. Subjects covered during each session follow.

During the Monday morning meeting, the Foreign Relations Commission and National Security Commission met in joint session. Dr. Lawrence J. Korb, Director of the Center for Public Policy at The Brookings Institute, shared his views on defense policies in the post-containment period. He mentioned the profound changes sweeping over Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and indicated three things were known for sure: U.S. defense spending will go down, the Cold War was coming to an end, and the U.S. Armed Forces would struggle over their force structures in the decade of the 1990s. Past defense budgets, particularly during the Reagan years, had geared for the Soviet blitzkrieg but the likelihood appears now that the United States and NATO may have a matter of months, not days, to react to any future Soviet aggression. The immediate, and most difficult task at hand, then, will be to convince the American people that the United States needs to retain viable military forces despite the significantly reduced Soviet threat. U.S. military forces will be required to maintain the peace in an unstable, potentially dangerous, and transitioning world. The United States should continue to maintain its armed options with tailored, modern, and quality forces. The future signing of the Conventional Forces Europe and START treaties with the Soviet Union will effectively signal the end of the Cold War and will place increased reliance on our Reserve Components and a strategic deterrence system. It is, therefore, imperative that the U.S. Government develop a long-range, comprehensive plan to channel resources from the Defense Establishment to our economic priorities, and this strategy would also entail its articulation to the American people.

The Honorable John C. Tuck, Under Secretary of Energy, emphasized that a comprehensive national energy strategy had been desperately needed and was finally coming to fruition. Such a strategy signified a call to action for the United States to ensure that adequate supplies of energy were maintained and that an expanded and safe nuclear energy and power system was absolutely essential for the national economic well-being of the American people. He indicated that a substantial segment of our defense nuclear development capacity had been significantly reduced due largely to mismanagement and the neglect of needed modernization. He outlined the planned implementation of the ten-point national energy plan including rewarding of nuclear plants which completely complied with design specifications, using independent regulatory inspection teams which would assess and monitor nuclear power plants and nuclear waste disposal, strengthening line management, and implementing the statutory National Environmental Cleanup Act. The Department of Energy's budget is on the order of \$18 billion with most of the funding dedicated to nuclear energy and lesser budgeting allocated for research and development of such technologies as clean coal production.

Ambassador Rozanne L. Ridgway, President, Atlantic Council of the United States, discussed "Changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe." She analyzed the extent of changes thus far and speculated on the challenges for the West in coming years. She said Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985 as a fervent communist convinced that profound reform was needed for the USSR to remain a major power. He has since lost faith in Marxism. Gorbachev is a shrewd politician and a "master of chaos;" however, he refuses to adopt significant reforms for a market economy and democratization. The result has been widespread disillusionment. Soviets now call the USSR a third world economy. Revolution in Eastern Europe was made possible by the military strength of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which bought time to demonstrate that communism does not work, and by

Gorbachev's decision not to use force to support the communist rulers in the region. The Warsaw Pact is now an empty shell, and Eastern European nations are negotiating the removal of Soviet troops from their territories. Changes in the Soviet Union are irreversible, regardless of the fate of Gorbachev. West Germany has become firmly democratic in the past 40 years as a loyal member of NATO and is a changed nation. The United States should express a sense of confidence in a reunified Germany and see that it remains a strong member of NATO. Other challenges ahead include continuing NATO as a bastion of Western strength and making sure that U.S.-European trade conflicts do not undercut Western security.

On Monday afternoon Lieutenant General Carl W. Stiner, Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps and the overall Joint Task Force Commander for Operation Just Cause in Panama, described in detail the planning, rehearsal, and precise execution of the largest combat operation since the Vietnam War. General Stiner's headquarters was tasked to develop an offensive contingency plan designed to protect U.S. lives and property, secure key sites, neutralize the Panamanian Defense Forces, restore law and order, support the installation of a U.S.-supported government in Panama, restructure the Panamanian Defense Force, and capture and deliver General Manuel Noriega to U.S. authorities. A total of 27 targets were attacked and neutralized practically simultaneously in a series of well-orchestrated night attacks. General Stiner emphasized that the troops employed were well-trained and rehearsed in their missions and that high technology assets such as night vision devices, the Apache attack helicopter, and F-117A Stealth fighter contributed immensely to the success of the operation. He alluded to the fact that the operation had been compromised by non-military sources and that his principal concern was that its compromise would contribute to greater casualties on both sides. To relieve the post-stress and anxieties of exposure to combat, General Stiner decided to airdrop the returning paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division to a large welcome-home reception attended by families and civilian and military personnel. Needless to say, General Stiner's graphic presentation was enthusiastically received by members of both Commissions.

During the Wednesday morning session, a POW/MIA Update was presented. Chairman Keith Baker, Special POW/MIA Committee, opened the session with a report on The American Legion's POW/MIA Program.

Mr. Peter Watson, Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council, discussed "POW/MIA Policy Aspects and Indochina." He concentrated on the recent US-Laos agreement to accelerate progress on the POW/MIA issue. The Lao have promised to conduct joint investigations into the fate of Americans known to have been captured by the Pathet Lao, expand to a year-round basis the search for American remains from grave sites and crash sites, and consult with North Vietnam to attempt to learn the fate of Americans lost in areas of Laos controlled by Vietnam during the war (over 85 percent of Americans unaccounted for in Laos were lost in such areas). In his second visit to Hanoi last October, General John Vessey, Jr., Special Presidential Emissary to Hanoi for POW/MIA Affairs, reached several agreements. If implemented fully by Hanoi, they should bring much progress. These agreements centered on increasing investigation of discrepancy cases (cases in which the United States has solid evidence that an American was in Hanoi's control at one time). Cambodia claims to have American remains, but refuses to turn them over to U.S. officials. Mr. Watson reaffirmed the Administration's strong commitment on the POW/MIA issue, pointing out that President Bush has stated, "the fullest possible accounting remains a matter of highest national priority" and that "we will do everything that a government can to recover the missing, and if we discover proof of captivity, we will take action to bring our men home."

Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director, National League of POW/MIA Families, said that she is more optimistic about progress on the POW/MIA issue with Laos, rather than Vietnam or Cambodia. For example, the Lao have permitted access to unscheduled witnesses and sites, unlike the orchestrated procedures in Vietnam. Since Laos is now more cooperative on narcotics control, the U.S. Government should certify its cooperation, thereby bringing about even more cooperation by the Lao in the POW/MIA area. Progress in US-Vietnamese joint POW/MIA efforts has been quite poor compared to what it should have been. Activity is no substitute for results. The U.S. Government should make it clear to Hanoi that it is willing to halt joint activities, if that becomes necessary in order to elicit greater cooperation from the Vietnamese.

Colonel Joseph Schlatter, USA, Chief of the Special Office for POW/MIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, presented the Department of Defense's position opposing passage of H.R. 3603, which calls for release of information on Americans unaccounted for from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—except information that would reveal

intelligence sources or methods, reports on Americans not connected with the POW/MIA incident, or data that could endanger Americans still held captive or believed to be still held captive. Colonel Schlatter stated that even sanitized reports could enable Hanoi to assess and interfere with U.S. intelligence collection efforts; wholesale release of data would cause a flood of public inquiries to U.S. agencies by the American public, causing diversion of resources to reply to these requests rather than to work on the POW/MIA issue; and current laws require release of all sanitized information to the immediate family members of an unaccounted for American servicemember.

Mr. Al Ziegler, a Legionnaire from Arlington, Virginia, who was introduced by Representative Smith, presented arguments in favor of passage of H.R. 3603. He maintained that there are many unanswered questions about Americans unaccounted for from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He stated the American people have a right to full access to the POW/MIA information in the possession of U.S. agencies, except for the three areas excluded from release by H.R. 3603. He stated that 12 POW/MIA families are considering filing suit against the U.S. Government for failing to release POW/MIA information as required by current laws. He pointed out that there are no organizations specifically speaking out for the unaccounted for Americans from World War II and Korea. He contended that documents in the archives indicate that up to 20,000 American prisoners of the Nazis ended up in Soviet hands after World War II.

Representative Robert C. Smith (NH), presented his views on why H.R. 3603 should be passed. He stated that the issue is declassification of information. He asked why POW/MIA information of 45 years ago should still be classified. He stated that H.R. 3603 is a bipartisan measure, having 77 cosponsors. He said there is no desire to compromise national security or to jeopardize any American POWs still being held and that the legislation contains exclusions in these areas. He contended H.R. 3603 would make a "reasonable attempt to find out" the fate of about 90,000 unaccounted for Americans from the three conflicts. He stated that H.R. 3603 is very different from an earlier proposed piece of legislation on this issue, H.R. 2260, and meets objections voiced against the earlier proposal by some people. He reviewed various documents from the archives relative to Americans still unaccounted for from World War II and Korea, who possibly fell into Soviet hands. He said no matter what the issue is, Congress must force intelligence agencies to release information, since they usually want to hold on to whatever information they possess.

Following the POW/MIA Update, a business meeting was conducted. The agenda included consideration of two resolutions and discussion of a proposal to obtain speakers' from Canada and Mexico for appearances before Legion audiences in implementation of resolutions calling for closer cooperation with those two neighboring countries.

The Special POW/MIA Committee met on February 27 to review activities for 1989 and plan for 1990. The Public Awareness Program for 1990 will include emphasis on the "Write Hanoi" campaign, participation in POW/MIA commemorations on designated holidays, participation in National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies in September, publication of articles on the POW/MIA issue, informational activities at the National Convention, and distribution of preprinted postcards to Hanoi and North Korea.

Spring National Executive Committee Meeting

The foreign Relations Commission and Council and guests met at National Headquarters on April 30-May 1, 1990 to consider resolutions properly before the Commission and to conduct other business.

In the initial meeting, the Commission reviewed two resolutions recommended for rejection at the Washington Conference meeting. After addressing planning for the National Convention, the Commission reviewed the status of projects on speakers from Canada and Mexico, updating of the Foreign Relations Handbook, and the forthcoming POW/MIA Handbook. The session concluded with discussions of the Southeast Asia POW/MIA issue, and alternative views of U.S.-Soviet relations.

On Tuesday, the Commission met jointly with the National Security Commission. The session opened with a presentation by the Americanism Commission in support of the flag amendment. Then the two commissions viewed four video tapes: "Operation Just Cause," explaining the U.S. intervention in Panama to restore democracy; "Seeking Answers," providing information on efforts to resolve the Southeast Asia POW/MIA issue; "Exposé on the Korean POW/MIA Issue," setting forth research on the fate of U.S. POWs in Korea; and, "From D-Day to the Rhine," cover-

ing the return of some U.S. veterans to European battlefields and reminiscences about their service during World War II.

Foreign Relations Commission Staff Activities

The Washington staff operates in Washington, D.C. as a combined division serving both the Foreign Relations and National Security Commissions, under the overall direction of the Director for National Security-Foreign Relations. Ms. Colleen Williams provides invaluable administrative support. Mrs. Denise Wilkins, Executive Secretary to the Director, does considerable work for Foreign Relations.

The Foreign Relations Washington staff during the past year performed the following functions for the commission, the National Commander and the Legion's 58 Departments and approximately 16,000 Posts:

1. Preparation of policy papers supportive of the Legion's foreign relations mandates.
2. Preparation of background papers and speeches on foreign policy matters for the National Commander, Foreign Relations commission, and individual Legionnaires.
3. Liaison with U.S. agencies in the executive branch, such as the Departments of State and Defense, and other federal agencies involved with international relations.
4. Preparation of Congressional testimony on international affairs.
5. Staff assistance for major activities, including the National Convention, National Executive Committee Meetings, and the Washington Conference.
6. Liaison with foreign diplomatic personnel as appropriate in the support of Legion mandates.
7. Preparation of speeches, articles, and interviews as required.
8. Preparation of articles for the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin, which is sent to 1,500 Legion and Auxiliary members.
9. In coordination with the Public Relations Division, biennial preparation of an audio-visual briefing describing the Foreign Relations Program.
10. Publication of a Foreign Relations Handbook designed to assist Department Foreign Relations Chairmen in conducting their programs.
11. Administrative duties such as answering correspondence, keeping posted on current international events and coordinating foreign affairs activities with other staff divisions, especially the Legislative and Public Relations Divisions.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

HERMAN G. HARRINGTON, New York, *Chairman*

HUBERT R. DAGLEY II, Indiana, *Director*

The Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for policies relating to the internal structure and operation of The American Legion at all levels. In addition, all resolutions and other official matters not falling within the area of assigned duties of other national commissions or committees are handled by the Internal Affairs Commission.

Four national standing committees are assigned to the commission for "supervision and coordination": Constitution and By-Laws; Membership and Post Activities; Resolutions Assignment; and Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials. The Internal Affairs Commission is also the supervisory body for the Sons of The American Legion organization.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The only authority that can amend the National Constitution and By-Laws is accomplished by action of a National Convention. A standing committee on Constitution and By-Laws does, however, review and make recommendations of all proposed amendments.

RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets only at the annual National Convention. The committee has the responsibility of assigning all resolutions to the appropriate convention committee for report to this convention.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

The 12th annual series of National Leadership Workshops sponsored by the National Headquarters of The American Legion and Auxiliary in cooperation with all Departments will take place this September/October at eight regional sites around the United States.

This forum of workshops is a setting to discuss matters of interest to the organization but, more importantly, it offers the opportunity to inform, educate and provide leadership training to anyone wanting to learn more about the past, present, and future of the Legion and Auxiliary. Many subject matters are covered, providing a blend of ideas, problem solving, information exchange, and the sharpening of skills.

Nearly 50,000 Legionnaires and Auxiliary members have attended past workshops. Our slogan for the past few years has been "Be a winner! Get involved!" Attendees at these meetings get a first-hand opportunity to view this guiding principle in action.

TROPHIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIALS

This committee supervises all official awards (with the exception of those related to uniform group competition) and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal, the International Amity Award and the Canadian Friendship Award.

PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE

The American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Program started 14 years ago as a convenience to our members. Since its inception, and as of July 31, 1990, over 62,617 members have entered the national program.

FAMILY BENEFITS PLAN

The American Legion Family Benefits Plan was created to assist in the acquisition and retention of members while increasing the real and perceived value of every Legionnaire's card. Corporate sponsors of this plan offer a variety of discounts on hotel lodging, resort condominium rentals, motor club membership, car rentals, recreation parks, and eye wear.

At this time, discounts and services are being offered by the following companies: American Red Ball, Atlas Van Lines, Avis Rent-A-Car, Days Inns of America, Endless Vacation Travel, Eye Care Plan of America, La Quinta Motor Inns, Marriott Corporation, National Car Rental, North American Van Lines/Quality Movers, Ramada Inns, Regal 8 Inns, Rodeway Inns, Auto Club, and United Van Lines.

Renewal agreements have been finalized at this time and preparation for new promotional materials are under way. Efforts continue to seek potential new corporate sponsors in a greater variety of choices. Negotiations with existing corporate sponsors are ongoing to expend benefits and increase participation by our members.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

Last year, over 55.37 percent of The American Legion Posts filed a Consolidated Post Report with National Headquarters. The 1989-1990 year shows some remarkable assistance to all levels of America: \$6,913,473 donated to community service and over 2,637,549 hours of voluntary service were provided; sponsored 59,071 Boy Scouts at a cost of \$1,616,418; contributions to VA Hospital Voluntary Program exceeded \$2,224,967 and over 1,459,164 hours of service were provided; 119,603 pints of blood were donated by 57,071 donors; \$11,110,533 was donated to sponsors of athletic teams; gave \$2,973,388 in school scholarships; cash aid and value of goods given to

343,213 children totaled \$4,607,336. The greatest duty that the American Legion has is its service to veterans. We meet our obligations with pride and honor.

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Membership in the Sons of The American Legion for 1989 was 109,643. As of July 31, 1990 membership has grown to 121,000 members and is expected to grow to 122,000 by December 31, 1990.

The Sons of The American Legion's main emphasis this year is on the Commander's special project of Veterans Rehabilitation (VAVS) services in VA hospitals and VA homes. During 1989 over 56,000 volunteer hours were reported along with \$175,000.00 in cash and goods to VA hospitals and homes. The final figures for the 1990 year will not be available until after the National Convention in late August.

The second main emphasis was support to the Child Welfare Foundation. At the end of the Foundation's reporting year (May 31, 1990) the Sons of The American Legion donated over \$50,000.00. This year also marked the third year the SAL was able to provide grants through the Foundation. This year the SAL provided two grants. The first grant was to the International Rett Syndrome Association, Ft Washington, MD and the second to the National Crime Prevention Council of Washington DC. The Sons of The American Legion remains a healthy and vibrant program experiencing continued growth and support to Posts throughout The American Legion organization.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

Direct Renewal

One of the measures The American Legion uses to judge the success of the various programs is through the continuing strength of its membership. Instrumental to the retention of members in the organization is the Direct Renewal Program, which is the use of a direct mail method that invites members to renew. This organized, uniform, and simple method has been a very successful and effective approach and is funded at NO COST to Departments or Posts. Members of participating Posts receive a first renewal letter about July or August 1, depending on the discretion of a Department. Subsequent renewal notices are mailed to unpaid members about October 1 or November 1, December 15 or January 4, March 14, and May 1 respectively.

An alternative to using the mail to renew members is to have dedicated Legionnaires personally contact members to continue their support. Personal contact plus the mail effort produces a winning formula and success in the area of membership retention for The American Legion.

Direct Membership Solicitation

Research studies have shown that many veterans would consider joining The American Legion, but they have never been asked. In an attempt to reach as many of these veterans, as possible we are soliciting new members through the mail. This new and exciting membership program is called Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS).

DMS has proven successful, having acquired over 1,000,000 new members for The American Legion since its inception. Fifty-three (53) Departments now participate in the DMS Program.

DMS will continue to play a vital role in supporting The American Legion's drive for 3,000,000 plus members.

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

WILLIAM O. MOORE, JR., Kentucky, *Chairman*

JAMES E. ROODVOETS, Michigan, *Director*

Membership in The American Legion will increase in 1990 over 1989 due in part to continued implementation of marketing programs designed to communicate the organizational goals to the veteran community. But, to a larger extent, this growth reflects the growing concern over National issues focusing on the veteran and his family and the desires to influence the disposition of those issues.

Membership statistics

Total official membership, 1989.....	3,013,189
1990 membership as of August 3.....	3,014,238
Increase over Final 1989 Membership	37,042

Education and Training

27th Annual National Membership Workshop

The National Membership Workshop was held this year in preparation for the 1991 membership year. The workshop was held at the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, July 27-29. The goal of the National Membership Workshop was to achieve a greater participation by individual Legionnaires in examining the membership objective of The American Legion. Workshop participants left Indianapolis motivated and committed to achieve 3,100,000 members plus, for the 1991 membership year.

National Leadership Workshop

We are again looking forward to our eight National Leadership Workshops during which we will take our Membership Workshop to the field.

New Posts

Charter Activity—May 1, 1989 to May 1, 1990

Number of Posts as of July 1, 1989.....	15,400
Number of Posts cancelled as of July 1, 1990	143
Number of Posts chartered as of July 1, 1990	69
Total number of Posts as of July 1, 1991	15,340

Unofficial Membership Awards

Early Bird Awards—August 22, 1989—Forty-one (41) Departments qualified for the 30% awards. They are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Midway to Success—September 26, 1989—Twenty-eight (28) Departments qualified for the 50% awards with nine (9) of them qualifying for the 55% bonus awards. The bonus Departments are: Connecticut, Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin. The 50% Departments are: Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia.

Oktoberfest—October 24, 1989—Thirty-three (33) Departments qualified for the 60% awards with eighteen (18) of them qualifying for the 65% bonus awards. The bonus Departments are: Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin. The 60% Departments are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont.

Veterans Day Awards—December 8, 1989—Thirty-five (35) Departments qualified for the 75% awards with sixteen (16) Departments qualifying for the 80% bonus awards. The bonus Departments are: Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin. The 75% Departments are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia.

Big Twelve Competition—February 21, 1990—Thirty-four (34) Departments qualified for the 90% awards with ten (10) of them qualifying for the 95% bonus award. The bonus Departments are: Connecticut, Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin. The 90% Departments are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mexico, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New

Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Philippines, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

"Big Twelve" Competition Winners

Category I—Ohio and Minnesota
 Category II—Maryland and Wisconsin
 Category III—Nebraska and Virginia
 Category IV—South Dakota and Oregon
 Category V—Vermont and South Carolina
 Category VI—Delaware and Rhode Island

American Legion Birthday—April 10, 1990

Eleven (11) Departments qualified for the 100% awards. The Departments are: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Philippines, Rhode Island, South Dakota, West Virginia.

Department Commander of The Year

Any Department Commander who meets or exceeds his/her 100% goal for 1990 by April 10, 1990, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention. Eleven (11) Department Commanders qualified for this award. They are the Department Commanders of: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Philippines, Rhode Island, South Dakota, West Virginia.

Gold Brigade Recruiter Award

A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more NEW members by District Competition Target Date, May 1, 1990, will qualify for enrollment in the elite GOLD BRIGADE of The American Legion. A total of 20 recruiters have been certified as of April 27, 1990. The combined number of new members recruited by Gold Brigade winners totals approximately 1,152 as of April 27, 1990.

Post Honor Ribbons: Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 2,159 Posts whose 1990 membership as of December 31, 1989, exceeds 1989 membership.

Certificate of Meritorious Service: These certificates were awarded for 357 Posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for 1990 by December 31, 1989.

Five Consecutive Years All-Time-High: These citations were awarded to 44 Posts with five or more consecutive years All-Time-High membership. (Only five Department reports received this year.)

District Commanders "Race To The Top"

Competition will be divided into five categories based on the membership of the District without regard to geographic locations. District Commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on the final 1989 totals, and a top District Commander for the National Award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category.

Category I—Districts of 15 to 1,499 members
 Category II—Districts of 1,500 to 2,999 members
 Category III—Districts of 3,000 to 4,999 members
 Category IV—Districts of 5,000 to 7,499 members
 Category V—Districts of 7,500 and above members

The 500 trip will be presented to the top District Commander and spouse in each category whose District membership for 1990 on April 3, 1990, represents the greatest percentage over the final 1989 membership of the District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. The First Place Award entitles you and your spouse to an all expense paid trip for three days, May 25-27, 1990, to attend the 1990 Indianapolis 500. The trip includes round-trip airfare, tickets to the Indianapolis 500, and first-class hotel accommodations.

Second Place Awards will be presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1990 on April 3, 1990, represents the second highest percentage over the final 1989 membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners will receive a round trip airline ticket to anywhere in the continental United States or a choice of several other great prizes.

Third Place Awards will be presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1990 on April 3, 1990, represents the third highest

percentage over the final 1989 membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners and spouses will receive a local get-away weekend or a choice of several other great prizes.

First Place Winners—Trip to the Indianapolis 500 Race

Category I

Clem Meeks
Oregon
District #9 129.32%

Category II

Marvin G. Peters
Virginia
District #9 119.01%

Category III

Robert Kutzly
California
District #24 114.82%

Category IV

Donald Peche
Michigan
District #7 105.25%

Category V

Dennis R. Boland
Florida
District #13 105.34%

**Second Place Winners—Airline Tickets to Anywhere in Continental United States
(or a choice of several other great prizes)**

Category I

Thomas E. Williams
Utah
District #1 115.63%

Category II

Maurice Barnes
Delaware
District #3 111.36%

Category III

Joseph Young
Tennessee
District #3 104.44%

Category IV

Irvin Gushen
Michigan
District #8 103.73%

Category V

Dale F. Carter
Maryland
District #3 100.99%

**Third Place Winners—Local Get-Away Week-End for Winner and Spouse (or a
choice of several other great prizes)**

Category I

Roger Morris
Michigan
District #1 113.77%

Category II

Harold W. Sedivy
S. Carolina
District #1 107.64%

Category III

Frank Reinfurt
New Jersey
District #20 103.99%

Category IV

Reginald H. Burt
Minnesota
District #4 103.22%

Category V

Lloyd W. Holman
Minnesota
District #3 100.67%

District Commander New Post Achievement Award Recipients

District Commanders who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion Posts in their respective District and have the new Post's Temporary Charter Application on file in National Headquarters by the 7th Target Date—District Commanders' Competition—May 1, 1990, qualify for the following award:

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Harry Thompson
Department of South Dakota
John Dunlap
Department of Idaho
Israel Tames
Department of Texas
C. Jim Rey
Department of Texas
Cecil Lee
Department of Oklahoma

Don Peck
Department of Idaho
Raymond W. Lau
Department of Montana
Robert J. DeGarmo
Department of Texas
Ted DeMicchi
Department of Wisconsin

Department Recruiter of the Year—Each American Legion Post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that Post who has signed up the highest number of New Members for the 1990 membership year by May 1, 1990. National Headquarters will supply certification forms to be completed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and submitted to Department Headquarters by May 8, 1990. Department Adjutants will determine the Top New Member Recruiter for their respective Department and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters, on or before May 16, 1990.

The "Department Recruiter," properly certified from each Department, will be awarded a State Outline Trophy with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon or a choice of several other great prizes. As of April 27, 1990, one (1) Department has certified their "Department Recruiter." (Many Departments have not reported a Department Recruiter of The Year in the past.)

National Recruiter of the Year—The individual certified with the highest number of New Members recruited from among all the Departments will be declared "National Recruiter of The Year."

Department D.M.S. Transfer Award—A plaque will be awarded to a Legionnaire, Post, District, County, or area of a Department. This plaque is awarded at the discretion of the Department to whomever gave the largest contribution to the transferring of D.M.S. members from the Department Headquarters Post to local Posts. As of April 27, 1990, two (2) Departments have certified their winners to National Headquarters. They are:

Roger Williams—Post 35—Providence, Rhode Island

Bill McEwen—Post 1—Tulsa, Oklahoma

Department Membership Renewal Award—This award is presented to any Department that by December 31, 1989, has renewed at least 75% of its final 1989 membership, or has increased its 1990 renewal rate by at least 5% over its 1989 renewal rate.

Each Department that achieves either of the above goals will receive a handsome Banner that can be displayed in the National Convention Parade and on the National Convention Department seating sign.

In addition to the Banner, if a Department has an 80% renewal rate, their Department Membership Chairman will receive a special gift. Eighty-five percent and 90% will earn the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant special gifts, respectively, and a 95% renewal rate will earn all those gifts plus a plaque to be presented at the National Convention.

This year seventeen (17) Departments qualified for the D.M.S. Renewal Award.

Three (3) Departments qualified for the award by having a 1990 renewal rate greater than 80%. They are:

South Dakota—84.91%

Wisconsin—81.67%

North Dakota—80.04%

Ten (10) Departments qualified for the award by having a 1990 renewal rate greater than 75%. They are:

Connecticut

Kansas

Nebraska

Ohio

Delaware

Maryland

New Hampshire

Iowa

Minnesota

New Jersey

Four (4) Departments qualified for the award by having a 1990 renewal rate at least 5% higher than the 1989 renewal rate. They are:

Panama Canal

Hawaii

District of Columbia

Utah

1989 Houghton Award Winners

The Arthur D. Houghton Son of The American Legion Award is presented annually to the Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion which on December 31 of each year has attained the greatest percentage of increase over the previous years' total membership. There are three categories and three awards. The winners are: Category I (200-1,000 members)—The Detachment of North Carolina with 191.00%, Category II (1,001 to 3,000 members)—The Detachment of Kentucky with 126.15% and Category III (3,001 or more members)—The Detachment of New York with 116.62%. The awards will be presented at the National Convention.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

CHARLES E. PESSO, New York, *Chairman*

E. PHILIP RIGGIN, Maryland, *Director*

Foreword

This report covers the activities of the Legislative Commission from August 1, 1989 through July 31, 1990. During this period, the Commission met five times to review the legislative program and to make recommendations to the National Executive Committee. Reports of these meetings are contained in the published proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

Purpose, Personnel and Organization

The Legislative Commission represents The American Legion before the Congress of the United States on all legislative matters in which the Legion is officially interested, and it assists the National Executive Committee in formulating an appropriate legislative program for each session of Congress. The Commission consists of thirty-one members, two consultants, four National Executive Committee liaisons and a representative of the National Commander.

To further assist the Commission in its activities with Congress, the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 30-May 1, 1975 adopted Resolution 45 authorizing the establishment of a National Legislative Council, composed of Legionnaires who are politically active in their states and/or congressional districts and whose judgment and advice are respected by their elected representatives. The Council is headed by a National Chairman, who is an ex-officio member of the Legislative Commission, and is assisted by a Vice Chairman of each Legion Department. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendations by the Departments. The Spring 1977 meeting of the National Executive Committee further aided the Commission by adopting a resolution to require additional Council members who have influence with Senators from their respective states. During its existence to date, the Council has been of invaluable service to the organization.

The professional staff of the Commission (the Legislative Division) concentrates on implementing the legislative mandates of The American Legion which are expressed in resolutions adopted at National Conventions and by the National Executive Committee at each of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Legislative Division, located in Washington, DC includes the director, a deputy director, an assistant director, an

executive secretary, a research analyst and two secretaries. The staff maintains close liaison with all divisions of The American Legion, the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Legislative Committees in each Department.

Legislative News Bulletin

The Legislative News Bulletin, a publication on legislative activities affecting American Legion mandates, is published by the Legislative Division monthly at a \$6 annual subscription rate. The Bulletin keeps its readers informed on the status of The American Legion's legislative program and serves as an excellent source of material for speeches, articles and reports by the officers and members of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

101st Congress

The First Session of the 101st Congress adjourned on November 23, 1989 with a frenzy of activity in an effort to pass all thirteen annual appropriations measures. Although unable to duplicate its performance of the previous year when all thirteen spending bills were in place prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year, Congress did complete a job left unfinished throughout most of the 1980s.

This session was more difficult than most. The seemingly continuous leveling of charges and countercharges over members' ethical behavior caused numerous delays in tackling several major issues—issues ranging from the savings and loan crisis to events in Central America. These problems, coupled with the increased pressure to come to terms with a growing budget deficit, caused great difficulty in reaching agreement on Fiscal Year 1990 appropriations measures. After all budgetary matters had been reportedly resolved, VA funding problems immediately developed. Due to a failure to meet a prescribed budget deficit target, provisions of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law imposed across-the-board spending cuts that produced a reduction in VA medical care of approximately \$200 million.

The 101st Congress, to a very large extent, has served in a "transition" capacity—making adjustments to several existing programs. The dramatic growth in federal deficits, the growing problems with international trade, the nation's drug epidemic, the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, the changing situation in Central America, the growing concern over the savings and loan crisis and the increasing demands for federal spending have all converged at one time forcing both the 101st Congress and the administration to come to grips with these issues.

The American Legion is deeply concerned that its priority legislative objectives may be jeopardized by continuing efforts to dramatically reduce the federal budget deficit. Of paramount concern to us is that sufficient funding be made available to assure our veterans their earned health-care benefit; that our national interests are not compromised in the interests of balancing the budget; and that our nation's security is not diminished by competing interests to spend the so-called "peace dividend".

Action has already been taken to secure additional funding for a broad range of programs. A Fiscal Year 1990 supplemental spending measure, Public Law 101-302, provided money for several emerging democracies in Central America and it restored some of the VA health care cuts imposed in the fall of 1989. As we move into the final months prior to the onset of the new fiscal year on October 1, 1990 our concerns deepen. Currently, "budget summit" negotiations are underway between the administration and both chambers of Congress. The results of these negotiations will have long-lasting and far-reaching effects on many issues of interest to The American Legion. Continued vigilance is the key to preventing any deterioration of programs critical to our members.

A great deal of time has been devoted in 1990 to securing passage of a constitutional amendment to protect our flag. Three days before Flag Day the United States Supreme Court upheld the two lower court decisions that Public Law 101-131, the Flag Protection Act of 1989, was unconstitutional. Within 10 days after the ruling, the proposed flag-protecting constitutional amendment (House Joint Resolution 350) was on its way to the House floor for final action.

On June 21, the first anniversary of the infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision in the flag desecration case of *Texas vs. Johnson*, House members spent six hours debating the flag amendment. During the floor debate, it became obvious that the issue had progressed well beyond partisan politics as members crossed party lines to cast their votes. House delegations from eleven states voted unanimously for the proposed amendment. Although HJ Res. 350 received a clear majority of the votes (254-177), it failed to obtain the necessary 288 (a two-thirds majority) for passage.

On June 26 the Senate debated the issue. Its version (Senate Joint Resolution 332) also gained majority support (58-42) but failed to meet the two-thirds requirement. The Senate floor debate was very similar to the House, with both senators from 21 states endorsing the proposal.

The American Legion will continue its campaign in support of an amendment, and plans are being developed to bring the entire issue back before Congress next year. We remain convinced that the congressional votes on June 21 and June 26 did not reflect public opinion on flag protection. The vast majority of Americans will not allow the flag to be burned, and they will continue to demand some remedial action by their elected representatives at the state and national levels.

The following is an account, arranged by program area, of how the remainder of our organization's legislative portfolio has fared since our last report.

Americanism

Filipino Veteran Immigration Bills Introduced: Several bills were introduced in Congress to allow Filipinos who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II to become naturalized U.S. citizens. One bill calling for such action, HR 525, passed the full House on November 13. The bill awaits action in the Senate.

Nurse Immigration Bill Clears: On November 20 and 21, the Senate and House respectively passed and sent to the President a bill to permit foreign nurses currently working in the U.S. on temporary visas to apply for permanent residency. This law, PL 101-238, is intended to assist communities in relieving nursing shortages. These nurses will be able to change to a permanent-resident status without regard to country-of-origin immigration quotas.

Children and Youth

Juvenile Justice Funding Becomes Law: Contained in the Fiscal Year 1990 appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary and Related Agencies (PL 101-162) was \$69.2 million in funding for grants and administrative expenses for programs under the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The funding level is an increase of \$2.5 million over the previous budget. This increase is to help initiate a previously-authorized program relating to juvenile gangs, drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Emergency Drug Funding: Signed by the President on November 21, PL 101-164 (FY 1990 Appropriations for the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies) contained an emergency drug funding provision. This \$3.18 billion package will be spent on federal prison systems, substance-abuse treatment and prevention programs as well as other law enforcement, education and treatment efforts.

National Family Week: PL 101-111, enacted October 6, established the week of November 19-25, 1989 as "National Family Week." The American Legion has taken the lead over the past decade in promoting this commemorative week as an appropriate way to stress the importance of family values.

Dial-a-Porn Ban: Attached as an amendment to the FY 1990 spending bill for the Departments of Labor, HHS, and Education was a dial-a-porn ban with language to deny access to indecent message services unless a person specifically subscribes to the service. The previous dial-a-porn ban restrictions were struck down in June by the Supreme Court as an infringement on First Amendment rights.

Economics

Changes in VA Home Loan System Passed: Included in the omnibus veterans bill (PL 101-237) were provisions which restructure the VA home loan guaranty program. This legislation replaces the current 1 percent user fee with a 1.25 percent indemnity fee, and it relieves the veteran of liability in case of foreclosure.

VRA Program Extended: The Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) program created to provide Vietnam era veterans an opportunity to enter federal employment was due to expire December 31, 1989. PL 101-237 contained a provision to extend this program for three years.

ASVET Funding Becomes Law: PL 101-166, signed by the President on November 21, contained FY 1990 funding for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. Among its provisions was \$162.6 million for programs administered by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET).

TJTC Extended: The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit for employers who hire economically disadvantaged veterans and others was due to expire on December 31, 1989,

but was extended for nine months and funded at approximately \$25 million by one of the provisions of FY 1990 budget reconciliation measure, PL 101-239.

Veterans Employment Activities: In anticipation of a reduction of the active military force structure a great deal of activity is taking place within the Veterans Affairs and Armed Services Committees of both the House and Senate. The American Legion has been actively engaged in continuing discussions with Congress as well as officials of the Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs in an effort to ensure adequate systems are in place to accommodate the placement of separating service members into the civilian work force. We are hopeful that appropriate legislative relief will clear the 101st Congress to meet the needs of these new veterans.

Foreign Relations

Nicaraguan Election Funding: On October 21, PL 101-119 was signed by the President. This law appropriated \$9 million to help finance the Nicaraguan elections. These funds helped Nicaragua hold an open and free democratic election, which resulted in an upset victory for Violetta Chamorro over former President Daniel Ortego, head of the Marxist Sandinista regime.

Foreign Aid Bill Passed: After vetoing an initial foreign operations funding bill, President Bush signed PL 101-167 into law on November 21, providing \$14.6 billion in FY 1990 funding. Included are new aid programs for Poland and Hungary, increased aid for the Philippines, and \$125 million for U.S. military and law enforcement assistance to Columbia, Bolivia and Peru to suppress the production of cocaine.

Fiscal Year 1990 Supplemental Adds Foreign Aid Funds: PL 101-301 signed into law by the President on May 25 provided an additional \$855 million for foreign aid in the current fiscal year. This measure included \$420 million for assistance to Panama, \$300 million for Nicaragua and \$100 million for various refugee assistance programs.

Internal Affairs

Postal Subsidy Approved: When the President signed PL 101-136 (the FY 1990 Treasury, Postal Service and Related Agencies appropriations measure), the federal government continued its commitment to nonprofit groups. Contained in the law was a funding level of \$460 million for the U.S. Postal Service to offset revenue denied it by reduced nonprofit postage rates.

Anti-Drug Funding: Also contained in PL 100-136 were funding levels of \$197 million for the U.S. Customs Service. This money is particularly critical to its efforts to suppress the flow of illegal drugs from Mexico.

World War II Memorial Moves Forward: HR 2807, a bill providing for the establishment of a memorial within the District of Columbia to honor members of the armed forces who served in World War II, cleared the House Veterans Affairs Committee on September 26 and awaits House action.

Internment Reparations Funded: PL 101-162 (setting funding for the Departments of Commerce, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies for FY 1990) contained a \$50 million provision to fund \$20,000 payments to approximately 60,000 Japanese-American World War II internees and their heirs authorized in 1988 by PL 100-383. Both the House and Senate voted to waive the Budget Act and approved the funding for the payments for FY 1990.

Korean War Memorial: Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate to authorize the minting of a silver dollar coin in commemoration of the thirty-eighth anniversary of the ending of the Korean War. The American Legion supports the building of a memorial honoring Korean War veterans and continues its efforts to assist the Korean War Memorial Fund in raising the funds required for its construction.

National Security

After much debate, action on FY 1990 defense funding was wrapped up by Congress on November 19 and signed into law by President Bush two days later as PL 101-165. Initially, the House and Senate versions of the defense spending bill were in vast disagreement. Following many weeks of conferences, the final \$286 billion spending bill included provisions lowering the ceiling on active duty personnel while raising the number of National Guard members and reservists. More than \$1.4 billion was earmarked for equipment for the Guard and reserves. Congress agreed to appropriate \$4.3 billion for continued development of the troubled B-2 "stealth"

bomber and the purchase of two additional prototypes. This measure contains \$3.8 billion for continued research and development of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Anti-Drug Fight Funds in DoD Appropriations: Also included in PL 101-165 is \$2.23 billion for the Pentagon's use in the war on drugs. About \$1.18 billion of this is money from a previously-enacted emergency drug war funding package.

Coast Guard Funding: As part of the FY 1990 appropriations for the Transportation Department, PL 101-164 funded the U.S. Coast Guard at a level of \$2.9 billion.

GI Bill Amendment Clear Congress: Several improvements to the Montgomery GI Bill were included in PL 101-237, the Veterans Benefits Amendments of 1989 which cleared Congress on November 20. Included were numerous changes to existing procedures which will assist veterans in their pursuit of educational opportunities. Additionally, this measure increased by 7.5 percent payments to disabled veterans in vocational training programs and dependents and survivors of disabled veterans.

National Service Proposal Advances: Legislation designed to establish school and college-based community service volunteer programs remains under active consideration in the House. This measure (HR 4330) would authorize \$193 million in FY 1991 for grants to states to promote volunteerism by students. The basic concept of the proposal calls for the forgiveness of student loans for students participating in volunteer service. Much work remains on this proposal before final action in Congress will occur. The American Legion will seek assurances that such a measure will not adversely impact on military recruitment and retention programs.

Fiscal Year 1991 DoD Funding in Doubt: The rapid shifts taking place in Eastern Europe and Central America, coupled with the escalating growth in the federal deficit, have renewed calls for a dramatic reduction in defense spending. The President's budget called for \$306.9 billion for FY 1991 and included substantial reductions in manpower and force structure. On July 13 the Senate Armed Services Committee approved a \$289 billion defense bill that would cut troops by 100,000 and reduce the President's SDI request by nearly \$1 billion, to about \$3.7 billion. The committee also agreed to a five-year plan calling for a total reduction of 475,000 troops.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Despite early indications of significant FY 1990 budget shortfalls for the new Department of Veterans Affairs, congressional action moved at a snail's pace in appropriating additional funds. Funding shortfalls thus became the central focus of most activities in this First Session of the 101st Congress. Highlights of major issues follow:

FY 1990 Spending Bill: As in the previous fiscal year, Congress passed and the President signed the annual appropriations bill for VA. This year's spending was set at \$29.4 billion, broken down as follows: \$15.2 billion for compensation and pension payments; \$156 million for burial benefits; \$501 million for veterans readjustment programs; \$313 million for the Home Loan Guaranty program; \$11.3 billion for medical care; \$213 million for medical research; \$45 million for medical operations; and \$41 million for state nursing home grants. Construction programs were funded at \$526 million for both major and minor construction projects, and \$805 million was allocated for general operating expenses and miscellaneous programs. Once again, the sense of accomplishment in gaining a barely adequate VA spending bill quickly dissipated with the application of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit sequestration. Across the board cuts of \$158.4 million for medical care, plus a \$94 million shortfall brought about through a computing error placed VA medicine in a precarious position. Some of this money was restored when the President signed the FY 1990 supplemental spending bill which provided \$94 million more for veterans medical care.

VA Health Care System Review Commission: In July 1989 legislation was introduced in both chambers of Congress which, if enacted, would have permitted the creation of a special commission chartered to review the entire VA health care system. In seeking such a commission, Secretary Derwinski indicated that no such survey had been done in the past 25 years and that such a study was necessary to determine whether the locations, sizes, and missions of VA medical facilities still represent the most optimal and efficient distribution of health-care resources to veterans. These bills (S 1398 and HR 2998) did not gain the support of either the House or Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Based on this denial, Secretary Derwinski initiated VA's own internal review commission consistent with existing legislative authority. The first meeting of this recently-appointed Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care was held in Washington, DC on June 19 and 20. This 15-member panel will review the existing veterans health care system and

make recommendations on how it should be structured to meet the future needs of veterans.

Veterans Programs Amendments: In the closing days of the First Session, Congress passed an omnibus veterans bill which addressed several key concerns of The American Legion. This measure, PL 101-237, provided a 4.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment in rates of disability compensation; authorized an entitlement to a clothing allowance for certain veterans whose clothing is damaged through the use of prescribed medication; and extended a number of expiring VA programs including respite care and the pilot program of contract community-based residential care for homeless chronically mentally ill veterans. Also in this measure are new procedures which require VA to more fully explain its reasoning in the adjudication of benefits claims.

Agent Orange Compensation Exclusion Act Passes: During the rush to end the First Session, both chambers of Congress passed and sent on to the President a measure to exclude Agent Orange settlement payments from countable income and resources under federal means-tested programs.

Agent Orange Activity Continues: Action continues in the 101st Congress to gain enactment of legislation to provide relief for victims of Agent Orange exposure. HR 3004, a comprehensive Agent Orange relief measure, continues to gain support in the House. The Senate has completed action on its Agent Orange bill with passage of S 1153. Recent scientific analysis on Agent Orange-related studies has provided added credibility to Legion demands for legislative relief. In testimony before a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee on May 2 Legion witnesses offered their view that passage of HR 3004 sets a positive and responsive course for the federal government's responsibility to compensate Vietnam veterans or the families of those who have died suffering from diseases and disabilities as a result of exposure to Agent Orange.

Fiscal Year 1990 Supplemental Spending Bill Enacted: On May 25, 1990 the President signed into law the FY 1990 supplemental appropriations bill. This measure, PL 101-302, appropriated an additional \$529 million for veterans programs allocated as follows: \$190 million to cover shortfalls in the compensation and pension account; \$245 million to meet unexpected demands on the Home Loan Guaranty Fund; and \$94 million in added funding for veterans medical care.

Fiscal Year 1991 Veterans Appropriations: On June 28, 1990 the House passed the FY 1991 veterans spending bill, HR 5148, by a vote of 355-48. This bill calls for a VA appropriations total of \$31.3 billion in FY 1991. Of that total, \$12.3 billion is allocated for VA medical care—a \$900 million increase over the current fiscal year. In a related matter, the full House has approved provisions in its 1990 health professionals compensation bill (HR 4557) which would exempt VA health care funds from sequestration under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction act. The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has adopted similar provisions in its FY 1991 omnibus veterans bill.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

ROGER A. MUNSON, Ohio, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

"It is clear that some of the essential differences between us and our critics are not about specific weapon systems or budget levels. When people want to cut the defense budget in half over the decade, then it becomes clear that the real debate is about the future role of the United States as a world leader.

"We believe that even with a decline in the Soviet threat, U.S. interests will continue to require a system of alliances, forward deployments, maritime supremacy, and a modern strategic deterrent. Apparently, some in Congress do not. They seem to think that a weaker Soviet Union justifies a U.S. retreat from its global responsibilities."

Secretary of Defense,
RICHARD B. CHENEY,
April 1990.

As has been its custom since its inception, the National Security Commission has attempted to remain informed, and to keep the membership of The American Legion informed on the range of issues related to the defense of the United States in order to recommend responsible national security policies to the governing bodies of The American Legion. To accomplish this task, the Commission conducts regular

meetings designed to provide members with current information from responsible government officials on timely issues concerning national security. One of these meetings takes place in conjunction with the National Convention, two in conjunction with meetings of the National Executive Committee, and the fourth is held during the Washington Conference of The American Legion.

Pre-Convention Activities

On August 31, 1989, one-hundred and eighty-six members and guests of the National Security Commission traveled to Aberdeen Proving Ground to visit the United States Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM) and the Ordnance Center and School. The visit began with a mission briefing on TECOM and was followed by round-robin observations of soldier speciality training to include metal machinist, small arms ordnance repair, tracked vehicle mechanic, and turret repair mechanics. The last stop of the morning was at the Ordnance Museum which included an extensive collection of armored vehicles, artillery pieces and other weaponry.

On the return trip to Baltimore, members of the Commission were treated to a reception at Parkville American Legion Post 183. The Post has the distinction of being the fourth largest in membership, sponsored the last two consecutive winners of The American Legion Oratorical Contest, and probably has the largest American Legion preamble in the country.

The following day, two-hundred and thirty Commission members and their guests visited the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. The Superintendent of the Naval Academy welcomed the group at Rickover Hall and an overview of the Academy was presented. This was followed by a walking tour of some of the key features on the grounds to include the Chapel, which contains the crypt of John Paul Jones, the Museum, Bancroft Hall (home to over 4,000 midshipmen), and the well-known Tecumseh Court.

Following lunch, a short memorial service was held at the Seagate in tribute to the 47 seaman who lost their lives in the tragic fire and explosion aboard the U.S.S. Iowa. Chairman Munson placed an American Legion wreath in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay in their memory.

Immediately thereafter, members of the Commission boarded two 270-foot Coast Guard cutters for the return to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Enroute, crew members led tours throughout the high-tech cutters and conducted demonstrations. A helicopter from Cape May, New Jersey, presented a search and rescue demonstration. As the cutters entered the Inner Harbor, they were greeted by spray boats from the Coast Guard and the Baltimore Fire Department.

Pre-Convention Meetings

The National Security Commission met at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 2 in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission. Lieutenant General Thomas W. Kelly, Director for Operations (J-3) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spoke on the developing role of the Department of Defense in drug interdiction. He was followed by Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Fernandez-Conte, former Defense Attache of Nicaragua, who presented an update on the Nicaraguan situation. Finally, Mr. Lawrence Robinson from the State Department presented an analytical update on the People's Republic of China and the Philippines.

That afternoon, the National Security Commission and its Standing Committees conducted a comprehensive review of all the resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Security. No other reports were heard and no other business was conducted.

National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 1989

An Executive Session of the National Security Commission met in Room B on the 21st Floor of the Indianapolis Hilton Hotel to consider resolutions properly before it and to conduct other business.

Twenty resolutions were considered by the National Security Commission. Six were recommended for adoption with two consolidated, three were recommended to be received and recorded, two were recommended to be disposed of administratively, two to be held for further study, and five were recommended for rejection.

Chairman Munson's remarks to the National Executive Committee follow:

"As you are aware, a Congressional Conference Committee continues in its efforts to resolve the Senate and House versions of the Fiscal Year 1990 Defense Appropriations Bill. The two versions vary considerably, with the Senate version more closely favoring the administration's \$305 billion defense budget re-

quest. The stage was set for an unpredictable Congressional Conference Committee to resolve such key strategic programs as the B-2 Stealth Bomber, Mobile Missile Systems, and the Strategic Defense Initiative. The House version had sharply reduced these strategic programs.

"As Admiral Crowe, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, emphasized at our National Convention, it is important to remain cautious in our interpretation of the events taking place in the Soviet Union. Peace has prevailed in Eastern Europe for the past 44 years due to a strong and unified NATO Alliance and to a strong America. Peace through strength remains the best deterrent to potential aggression as it has proven to be the key to successful arms negotiations. We believe, therefore, that our nation should not react prematurely to budgetary pressures without receiving commensurate decreases from the Soviets as they have promised.

"In today's changing world of political and economic uncertainties, our security policy must remain viable and flexible, and our forces structured and strong to meet contingencies and threats. Now is not the time to let our guard down. As members of the nation's largest and fastest growing veterans organization, we in The American Legion must continue to make our voice heard in this respect."

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The National Security Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, February 26 and Wednesday, February 18, 1990. Subjects covered during each session were:

MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 26

The National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Commission met in joint session. Dr. Lawrence J. Korb, Director of the Center for Public Policy at The Brookings Institute, shared his views on defense policies in the post-containmentment period. He mentioned the profound changes sweeping over Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and indicated three things were known for sure: U.S. defense spending will go down, the Cold War was coming to an end, and the U.S. Armed Forces would struggle over their force structures in the decade of the 1990s. Past defense budgets, particularly during the Reagan years, have geared for the Soviet blitzkrieg but the likelihood appears now that the United States and NATO may have a matter of months, not days, to react to any future Soviet overtures. The immediate, and most difficult task at hand, then, will be to convince the American people that the United States needs to retain viable military forces despite the significantly reduced Soviet threat.

The Honorable John C. Tuck, Under Secretary of Energy, emphasized that a comprehensive national energy strategy had been desperately needed and was finally coming to fruition. Such a strategy signified a call to action for the United States to ensure that adequate supplies of energy were maintained and that an expanded and safe nuclear energy and power system was absolutely essential for the national economic well-being of the American people. He indicated that a substantial segment of our defense nuclear development capacity had been significantly reduced due largely to mismanagement and the neglect of needed modernization. He outlined the planned implementation of the ten-point national energy plan.

Ambassador Rozanne L. Ridgway, President, Atlantic Council of the United States, discussed "Changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe." She analyzed the extent of changes thus far and speculated on the challenges for the West in coming years. She said Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985 as a fervent communist convinced that profound reform was needed for the USSR to remain a major power. He has since lost faith in Marxism. Gorbachev is a shrewd politician and a "master of chaos;" however, he refuses to adopt significant reforms for a market economy and democratization. The result has been widespread disillusionment. Soviets now call the USSR a third world economy. Revolution in Eastern Europe was made possible by the military strength of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which bought time to demonstrate that communism does not work, and by Gorbachev's decision not to use force to support the communist rulers in the region. The United States should express a sense of confidence in a reunified Germany and see that it remains a strong member of NATO. Other challenges ahead include continuing NATO as a bastion of Western strength and making sure that US-European trade conflicts do not undercut Western security.

AFTERNOON SESSION, FEBRUARY 26

Lieutenant General Carl W. Stiner, Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps and the overall Joint Task Force Commander for Operation Just Cause in Panama, described in detail the planning, rehearsal, and precise execution of the largest combat operation since the Vietnam War. General Stiner's headquarters was tasked to develop an offensive contingency plan designed to protect U.S. lives and property, secure key sites and neutralize the Panamanian Defense Forces, restore law and order, support the installation of a United States supported government in Panama, subsequently restructure the Panamanian Defense Force, and capture and deliver General Manuel Noriega to U.S. authorities. General Stiner emphasized that the troops employed were well-trained and rehearsed in their sundry missions and that high technology assets such as night vision devices, the Apache attack helicopter, and F-117A Stealth fighter contributed immensely to the success of the operation.

MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 28, 1990

Mr. Gregg Chappell, Assistant Associate Director for Disaster Assistance Programs, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), discussed the overall system for federal disaster assistance relief. FEMA annually receives 15-18 requests from States for Federal disaster relief, but in 1989 a total of 24 requests were received. The magnitude of disaster relief created by Hurricane Hugo in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, North and South Carolina and the California earthquake vastly exceeded FEMA capabilities and was the most extensive in its past five-year period. Mr. Chappell said that from his perspective there were a number of lessons learned which needed to be addressed as a result of these devastating disasters and they included: Catastrophic planning is recognizably not in place for large scale hurricanes on the order of Hugo; planning at State and Federal levels must extend to inland areas not just island or coastal areas; closer State and local involvement is highly encouraged; FEMA may have to seek the availability of more military resources for disaster contingencies particularly when designated local assistance groups fall victims to the disaster; and, unquestionably, FEMA will seek Congressional approval for larger resources for disaster relief assistance contingencies. Mr. Chappell was appraised and complementary of the disaster relief understanding between The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the American Red Cross, and the emergency fund and assistance rendered by numerous Legionnaires.

OTHER BUSINESS CONDUCTED

The National Security Commission held a business session on the morning of February 28. The Commission considered six resolutions of which four were recommended for adoption at the Spring meeting of the National Executive Committee. Planning for the Pre-Convention Trip was also discussed. The trip would include proposed visits to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and to the Indiana National Guard at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

National Executive Committee, May 2-3, 1990

An Executive Session of the National Security Commission met in Room B on the 21st floor of the Indianapolis Hilton Hotel and in the Meridian West Ballroom of the Hotel, to consider resolutions properly before it and to discuss other business.

Five Resolutions were considered by the National Security Commission at the Washington Conference. Four were recommended for adoption, and one was recommended for rejection.

Chairman Munson's remarks to the National Executive Committee follow:

"I would like to discuss some of the difficult issues facing us this year and perhaps my philosophizing to where we appear to be headed. In the aftermath of World War II, the United States assumed the responsibility to lead and help defend the world's free nations by providing a shield behind which democracy could flourish and to aid in global economic progress. The challenge of an aggressive Soviet Union was contained by a system of alliances like NATO which we helped create and lead.

"In this historic endeavor, the United States has succeeded brilliantly. But it was inevitable that new conditions created by this success would call for a new kind of American leadership. It was perhaps also inevitable that the Soviet Union, met by a strong American and a strong coalition of free nations determined to resist its encroachments, would have to turn inward to face its own

economically-flawed system. We are witnessing developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union that we could not have imagined months ago.

"Naturally, we are not opposed to defense draw-downs if the threat and internal conditions truly justify them. But before we do, I would argue that it is preferable to decide where we are going and why before we arbitrarily and irreversibly slash defense budgets. As a former White House Budget Director said, 'If there were such a thing as a peace dividend, it would have been spent 50 times over.' Even should the Soviet Union reduce its military budgets and Armed Forces as announced, and even if Russia and the United States sign the conventional forces Europe Treaty (each side maintaining 195,000 troops in Western and Eastern Europe) and the START Treaties, the Kremlins' military establishment will maintain the world's largest military force and largest inventory of modernized hardware.

"The American Legion has played a role in our continuing national defense dialogue which we have supported from its very onset in 1919. We have presented our resolutions and positions dealing with national security to the President, the Secretary of Defense and to Congressional Committees. Our nation profits from your patriotism, and from the experience and wisdom represented in your ranks. We have always favored a strong and viable national defense, and while cuts are inevitable, the theme prevails that we should not let our guard down."

National Security-Foreign Relations Division

Responsibility for the daily conduct of the extensive work of The American Legion in defense and foreign policy is assigned to the National Security-Foreign Relations Division located in the Washington, D.C. office. The staff of the division consists of: G. Michael Schlee, Director; Harry E.B. Sullivan, Deputy Director; Dennis M. Duggan, Assistant Director; Denise R. Wilkins, Executive Secretary to the Director; and Colleen Williams, Secretary.

During the year, the combined Division has endeavored to not only fulfill its responsibility to implement the mandates and policies of The American Legion relating to national defense and foreign affairs, but constantly expand and improve the ways and means of projecting our interest in these two important areas. The duties have consisted of answering correspondence and telephone inquiries; maintaining liaison with the Departments of Defense, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Transportation (Coast Guard); the American Blood Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These contacts related to a variety of matters, some of which involved members of the armed forces.

Liaison also is maintained with a host of military and quasi-military organizations with whom common goals are shared. Among these are: Reserve Officers Associations; Air Force Association; Navy League and Association of the U.S. Army. Most importantly, the National Security-Foreign Relations Division provides a steady flow of information on defense matters to members of both commissions and the leadership at all levels of our organization. Writing and delivering speeches, preparing reports and testimony, is also a duty of the staff. Additionally, promotional material is prepared and distributed to support the five national programs in the national security field.

While continual use is made of all national publications, such as *Advance*, *The American Legion Magazine* and the *American Legion News Service*, the principal means for distribution of factual information and program support in the fields of national defense and foreign affairs is the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin.

The 1,550 recipients of the Bulletin include: National Department officers; NECmen; Department Security and Foreign Relations chairmen; National and Committee leadership of the American Legion Auxiliary; National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions and Committees and many other interested Legionnaires. Excerpts from the appearances of Legion representatives before the committees of Congress are also featured in the Bulletin.

Committee Reports

The following reports, received with grateful appreciation, were prepared under the leadership and guidance of the following Committee and Council Chairman: James E. Starr—Aerospace; Frank J. D'Amico—Defense Civil Preparedness; W. Dudley Robbins—Law and Order; Charles F. Moreland—Merchant Marine; Norbert G. Harmeyer—Military Affairs; Wilson R. Timmons—National Security Council; and John J. Wrenn—Naval Affairs.

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

JAMES E. STARR, Minnesota, *Chairman*

During the past year, the Aerospace Committee continued its efforts to ensure that the United States does not become a second-rate power in modern air power or advanced aerospace technology. The authority for the Committee's efforts are the resolutions adopted at the 70th and 71st National Conventions. These policies are listed in the Summary of Proceedings section of that report. The effort to implement these positions required both administrative and legislative activities.

Legislative Activities. Implementation of these policies necessitates frequent correspondence and testimony to the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and House in coordination with our Legislative Division. In addition to correspondence, principal appearances were before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Resolutions on aerospace were presented to the subcommittee in its consideration of Fiscal Year 1991 defense appropriations. Of particular emphasis was adequate provision for Operations and Maintenance funding, the military health care system, research and development, the strategic bomber and tactical forces, and personnel issues.

Civil Air Patrol. Pursuant to Resolution 14, adopted by the Denver National Convention, appropriate certificates have been prepared for Departments to recognize the outstanding CAP squadrons in their States. All Department Adjutants have been notified of the availability of the certificates and many requests have been received during this reporting period.

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

FRANK J. D'AMICO, New York, *Chairman*

The American Legion continues to advocate adequate staffing, adequate budgeting and adequate technical and research support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In an era when Soviet civil defense efforts are far greater than those of the United States, it becomes imperative that planning for emergencies to include a nuclear exchange be enhanced.

Disaster Relief Understanding. At the Fall 1989 meeting of the national Executive Committee, Resolution 37 was adopted which called for an investigation and improvements on the part of FEMA with regard to the Hurricane Hugo and California Earthquake disasters. Both Chairman Munson and Chairman D'Amico presented oral reports and an interim written report to the NEC at the Spring 1990 meeting. Their recommendations included the following:

The entire FEMA mission and its capability to coordinate and execute its disaster relief assistance roles should be reviewed by the Executive Branch and appropriate subcommittees of Congress in order to assure prompt, effective disaster relief. Particular attention should be given to determining whether FEMA's major priority should be civil defense or natural disaster relief.

Full manning of FEMA, from its top leadership positions to its field staff should be a high government priority. Statutes and regulatory requirements should be assessed so as not to preclude or reduce the availability of trained and experienced personnel such as military retirees to assist in disaster relief.

FEMA should consider expanding the role of the military in disaster relief with an eye toward its greater participation in on-site assessments, victim registration, and other areas.

The National Emergency Training Facility should be fully operational and its emergency management curriculum and attendance quotas expanded so as to include greater emphasis on natural disaster assistance.

FEMA should streamline its registration and application procedures so as to expedite assistance to disaster victims. FEMA should also enhance its planning and coordination with state, local and military officials for disaster relief assistance and conduct realistic effective disaster relief exercises.

The foregoing recommendations are based upon preliminary data and will probably need to be revised after the FEMA After-Action Report and other data have been published and analyzed.

Finally, the Study Group recommended that in coordination with its Departments, The American Legion National Organization should review the capabilities of its Posts to render assistance in disaster relief as prescribed in its *Disaster Relief Understanding Between The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Red Cross*; and the Study Group strongly urges the participation in, and continuation of, The American Legion National Emergency Fund. Finally, The

Defense Civil Preparedness Committee, under direction of the National Security Commission should continue to review and monitor the program and After-Action Reports of FEMA as well as legislation affecting disaster relief assistance.

Blood Donor Activities. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply for blood. Through our vast network of Posts and Units organized into Department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members through a variety of programs continue to supply the blood needs of their own members, hospitalized veterans and through cooperative agreements, to patients in civilian hospitals. In this past year, the program has continued to grow. During 1989-90, a total of 115,668 pints of blood were donated by 57,301 American Legion donors.

National Commander Awards. To stimulate activities on the part of Departments and Posts, annual awards are made by the National Commander. During the period from July 1, 1988 through June 15, 1989, many Departments of the American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor program. The criteria for the National Commander's Awards for Post and individual participation was based on Resolution 14, adopted at the Spring meeting, May 8-9, 1985 of the National Executive Committee. The resolution provides that Departments be placed in categories based on the size of the Department, using criteria established by the Membership and Post Activities Committee. The winners for the 1989-90 Blood Donor Program are:

Category I (more than 100,000 members)—Post and individual participation: Illinois.

Category II (70,000 to 99,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Florida.

Category III (40,000 to 69,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Nebraska.

Category IV (25,000 to 39,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Tennessee.

Category V (10,000 to 24,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Montana.

Category IV (less than 10,000 members)—Post and individual participation: Rhode Island.

Each participating Department will receive a certificate of recognition signed by National Commander Miles S. Epling and National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle.

Holiday Blood Drive. During the 1990 Holiday Season, American Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary will be urged to give a gift of life-blood. For the past several Christmas seasons, demands for blood were exceptionally high while supplies were so critical that only emergency operations could be performed. Numerous Departments and Posts have actively publicized the "Holiday Blood Drive," noting that this was opportunity to establish closer ties with the community.

The edition of *ADVANCE* featuring a four-page insert which contained complete instructions on how to go about setting up a blood program sponsored by American Legion Posts in a community was again sent to all of the blood banks sponsored by the American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross and the Council of Community Blood Centers. All of these blood banking facilities were notified of the interest of The American Legion in ensuring a safe, adequate supply of blood for the community.

Plans are in place to conduct a blood drive at the 72nd National Convention of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The American Blood Commission. During this past year, The American Legion has continued its participation as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Blood Commission. Established in 1975, the American Blood Commission is comprised of national organizations whose goal is the implementation of the National Blood Policy.

The American Blood Commission has been particularly valuable in disseminating information on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This disease and its effect on the blood supply will be carefully monitored.

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

W. DUDLEY ROBBINS, North Carolina, *Chairman*

The Law and Order Committee continued this year to emphasize crime prevention by promoting the distribution of the Crime Prevention booklet across the nation. Plans are underway to produce a slide or videotape presentation on Crime Prevention. Liaison was maintained with the National Crime Prevention Coalition

in order to keep the committee up-to-date on the latest developments in the field of crime prevention.

American Legion Departments, Posts and individual citizens have been overwhelmingly responsive to the Legion's Crime Prevention program. Requests for our booklet have come from state and local law enforcement officials; from senior citizen groups; from libraries; and from school children. This program is viable, ongoing and important to our National interest. The Law and Order Committee will continue to promote our goals in this area. Over 1,154 Posts have crime resistance programs.

Fire Protection/Prevention. The National Executive Committee authorized the beginning of an American Legion Fire Protection and Prevention program. An information booklet on this subject was published in the Spring of 1986, and was the basis of a slide show production. Over 1,230 Posts have Fire Prevention programs.

Youth Programs. The American Legion, in its efforts to better educate our young people in regard to laws which govern our society, and the agencies which enforce those laws, has developed several programs which feature law enforcement training. At least ten Departments, in cooperation with state law enforcement agencies, sponsored youth programs designed to acquaint the participants with methods of basic law enforcement. The young people actually spend time with state troopers, at the various police academies, learning about such diverse subjects as traffic law, police ethics, traffic control, unlawful drugs, court procedures and the responsibility of citizenship.

Our coloring poster, "Your Friend—the Policeman," continues to be a successful program. Well over 40,000 copies have been distributed to elementary school teachers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

CHARLES F. MORELAND, Florida, *Chairman*

Since its founding, The American Legion has realized the importance of a strong American merchant marine and the indispensable role of this "fourth arm of defense." Today, the ever increasing dependence of the U.S. economy on raw materials from Third World countries and overseas areas demand renewed efforts to build up our merchant fleet.

The privately owned, deep-draft fleet of the U.S. merchant marine totalled 481 vessels with a carrying capacity of about 22 million deadweight tons (dwt) in March 1989, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. The total comprised 403 ocean-going ships and 78 Great Lakes vessels.

Compared with March 1, 1989 totals, the number of ships in the U.S. ocean-going fleet decreased by 23 vessels and the fleet's carrying capacity decreased by approximately 1,586,000 deadweight tons.

As of March 1, 1990, there was one new large commercial ship under construction.

Retaining American merchant marine independence in supplying our economy and the added demands of military sealift, spurred this Committee's support for expanding our fourth arm of defense during the past year. Our effort to inform our membership, the general public and the Congress of our views were guided by resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the 70th National Convention.

Maritime Power. Throughout our history, maritime power has been a key element in the growth and strength of America. Moreover, the new sealift demands of the United States Command makes the fourth arm of defense even more imperative in our strategic planning. We must rebuild our merchant marine if we are to maintain free use of the seas in the face of the challenge presented by Soviet sea power in every corner of the world.

The changes in National Maritime Policy which were implemented by the Reagan Administration have been noted. The Merchant Marine Committee intends to monitor these policy changes as they are implemented to ensure that the United States Merchant Marine is one again pre-eminent on the seas.

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NORBERT G. HARMEYER, Iowa, *Chairman*

During the year, your Military Affairs Committee has directed its major efforts toward maintaining a strong and modern United States armed forces, second to none in the world. We believe the times deserve no less. Our activities have been guided by the resolutions adopted by the 70th and 71st National Conventions and

subsequent National Executive Committee action. Wide dissemination was given those resolutions to Congressional, government, military and industry leaders to inform them of our mandates for supporting a strong and modern military force and Reserves. A bound volume of the resolutions was presented to the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Press Conference/Legislation Activities. The staff has kept up-to-date by attending press conferences on various subjects of interest, including the press conferences sponsored by the Department of Defense, several Congressional press conferences, and American Enterprise Institute sessions.

Through the Legislative Division, correspondence with Members of Congress and Congressional staff was initiated and followed through in other areas as follows: Armed Forces commissaries and military health care; military and pay allowances; and military quality of life incentives, including transitional benefits. Additionally, testimony was presented before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in support of needed weapons systems, to include the Strategic Defense Initiative, and overall modernization of the force. Emphasis was placed on maintaining the force structures of the Armed Forces in the face of proposed Congressional reductions.

Defense Appropriations Testimony, May 24, 1990

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to appear before this Subcommittee on behalf of the 3 million members of The American Legion. Our view of the defense interests of the United States is based on first-hand experience, much of it in combat. We, perhaps more than any other citizens, fervently hope that the chain of events occurring in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will succeed, and succeed in our favor.

In the aftermath of World War II, the United States assumed the responsibility to lead and help defend the world's free nations by providing a shield behind which democracy and the love of freedom could flourish. The challenge of an aggressive and repressive Soviet Union was contained by a system of alliances like NATO, which we helped create and lead. In this historic endeavor, the United States has succeeded brilliantly. It was perhaps inevitable that the Soviet Union, met head-on by a strong America and a strong coalition of free nations determined to resist its encroachments, would have to turn inward to face its own economically flawed system.

Yet our own goals and interests remain constant. The United States must continue to be the leader of the free world and take on the new challenges created by new conditions. Our policy of peace through strength has been expensive and at times painful for us and our allies. Four times in this century we have entered major wars unprepared because we failed to fund defense properly in peacetime. As veterans who served during these wars, we paid a terrible price in blood and resources. As former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Crowe noted, "It is curious that just as our security policies are beginning to reach fruition that we begin cutting away at them with a vengeance."

Naturally we are not opposed to defense draw downs if the threat, in fact, truly justifies it. But before we arbitrarily and irreversibly slash defense budgets, perhaps we should ask ourselves: Do we truly know what are the intentions of the Soviet Union? More importantly, should we base our defense budget on Soviet intentions, or Soviet capabilities? As a former White House budget director said: "If there were such a thing as a peace dividend, it would have been spent 50 times over by now." The Soviet Union continues to modernize its conventional and strategic capabilities. Even if the Soviet Union and the United States sign and ratify the Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) and the START Treaties, the Kremlin's military establishment will continue to maintain the world's largest military force and largest inventory of modernized hardware. Moreover, the independence movements and the ethnic problems that plague the Kremlin combined with a failing economy could rapidly threaten the entire Soviet endeavor.

Even if all the trends we see in Moscow play out in our favor, the necessity of protecting the interests of Americans in an uncertain world will not disappear. In a period of rising national priorities, declining available resources, and what overtly appears to be a declining threat, we believe that it is absolutely imperative that our Armed Forces remain strong, include a mix of conventional and strategic forces, and include viable and modernized Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps forces capable of protecting an appropriate level of U.S. power and military response. We wonder if "Operation Just Cause" could have been performed successfully with the proposed FY 1997 force level. Would the movement of required personnel and equipment "tip-our-hand" as to our intentions thus losing the element of surprise? We

strongly believe that the Armed Forces should not be reduced too deeply nor too rapidly.

The national security strategy of the United States, as elaborated by the President, seeks whenever possible in concert with our allies to: deter aggression that could threaten our security interests; to deal with threats to the security of the United States to include international terrorism; to improve our strategic stability through equitable and verifiable arms control agreements; to maintain our strategic and conventional deterrents; to remain vigilant to Soviet and Third World adventurism; to prevent the transfer of military critical technologies especially weapons of mass destruction; and to reduce the flow of illegal drugs in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, these are major missions that can only be performed by strong and vibrant active duty and reserve components forces of our country. The American Legion supports the major role of the Department of Defense with regard to monitoring and interdicting the international drug flow into the United States. Recognizably, it is not, nor should it be, the primary mission of the Armed Forces, but we support an adequate level of funding for the Services for this vital role which impacts on every facet of American life.

The proposed FY 1991 defense budget represents less than 5.5 percent of the gross national product and is projected to decline even further. That is well below the levels of the Kennedy and Eisenhower years; and we appear to be headed toward defense budgets which pre-date World War II years. Indeed, the perception of the "hollow" Armed Forces of the 1970's is beginning to creep back into our vocabulary.

Mr. Chairman, there are several major issues we would like to discuss with the Subcommittee today. The first concerns the dedicated men and women who are currently serving in the Armed Forces. Unlike previous eras, career-oriented service members today serve voluntarily and not in a conscripted status. In our visits to military installations, we have detected considerable anxieties from officers and non-commissioned officers stemming from the uncertainties of future service to the nation. The reported position of the Army, the largest of the Services, is that it is contemplating reducing in-force troop strength by 200,000 in the FY 1992 to FY 1997 defense budgets. Some experts predict this will force a raise in the overall level of unemployment by at least 2.5 percent in 1993. The erosion of morale is real, as is its apparent impact on the readiness of the Services. The opportunity for service members to earn a military retirement annuity and subsequently enter a second civilian career has been the mainstay incentive for officers and non-commissioned officers who are considering pursuing a military career. The bulk of service members who would be subjected to any reductions-in-force serve predominately in the combat branches of the Services, yet all separating service members will require transitional benefits and training to be competitive and productive in the civilian work force. It is the very least this nation can do for those who have so unselfishly served their country.

The American Legion has long been supportive of quality of life elements for the Services, including those which would facilitate the transition of service members from military to civilian life. Congress should give serious consideration to comprehensive benefits packages for involuntarily separated career service members to include, for example, early retirement benefits scaled to years of service and/or separation pay for enlisted members and an improved separation pay for officers, transitional health care benefits, expanded and improved unemployment compensation benefits, broader eligibility for Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits, and transitional commissary and exchange privileges.

Mr. Chairman, there are thousands of men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces who face the possibility of being released from active duty in the near future due to the proposed substantial reduction in the Armed Forces. Some of these service members have skills which are relatively easy to transfer into the civilian work force, but many do not and will need the help of our government to obtain the necessary training and job placement assistance. Veterans Employment and Training Services in the Department of Labor is currently the only agency in the Federal Government with the expertise to assist veterans with employment and training issues.

Last year the Congress authorized a pilot study of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) designed to assist service people within 180 days of separation in their transition to civilian life. The pending personnel cuts within the military services leaves little time for a pilot study. The TAP and DTAP need to be expanded and fully funded. It is estimated that at least \$4.5 million is needed for the TAP and DTAP from the Department of Defense.

If there is a so-called peace dividend, it should be invested into comprehensive benefits and training packages to assist the dedicated men and women our government chooses to release from active duty. These veterans have served their country, endured the hardships attendant to service life and maintained the peace we enjoy today.

We also note with considerable interest, that the President's budget request contains a 3.5 percent pay increase for the Armed Forces. We would point out, first of all, that the inflation rate for the first quarter of FY 1990 was 5.7 percent, and that pay comparability between the Armed Forces and the civilian sector is still a goal, not a reality. The Department of Defense currently estimates that servicemen and women are paid approximately 12 percent below the civilian sector. Maintaining the quality of the Services is directly tied to such factors as military pay and the quality of military life. Service members are no different than their civilian counterparts when it comes to career decisions and they react just as negatively when real or perceived benefits are changed or eroded. We also strongly urge the Congress to preserve the guarantee of purchasing power for retired military and civilian personnel by insuring that cost-of-living adjustments are consistent with inflation factors.

Comparable military compensation, as important as it is, is only one factor as to what attracts and retains quality service members in the Armed Forces. Families of military members are a major part of the quality of life equation. As such, military families make an important contribution to the readiness posture of the Armed Forces. Whether a good soldier remains in the Service is often decided by the family's perception of whether an adequate quality of life is being provided by the Service in exchange for the hardship and family separations attendant to military life. Three of the most important of all quality of life programs are retirement benefits, health care and commissaries.

The Armed Forces continues to be short hundreds of physicians and literally thousands of nurses. This gap must be corrected. It not only translates into potentially increased mortality rates among battle casualties, but also into a serious degradation of medical care for active duty dependents and military retirees and their dependents.

In light of the proposed reduction of the Armed Forces, The American Legion strongly urges Congressional action to focus attention on the Department of Defense and its military departments to address the medical needs of military families and retirees throughout the United States and around the world. Armed Forces medical facilities and the CHAMPUS program must be expanded and fully funded to meet our nation's responsibility to provide medical care to active duty service personnel, their dependents, and military retirees and their dependents. The Navy and Marine Corps reported that as of May 7, 1990 they can no longer make CHAMPUS payments for medical services rendered because they are broke and will require reprogramming of funds. The fact is that CHAMPUS has been chronically underfunded for years. The FY 1990 CHAMPUS budget is \$3.1 billion and has grown at the rate of approximately 10 percent per year and yet has not kept pace. This program will require far-sighted expansion as larger numbers of men and women leave the services. The American Legion urgently seeks its full funding.

With regard to commissary operations, we strongly support the retention of the military commissary system and that it be preserved as an institutional support for our active duty military, military retirees, reserve component personnel on active duty for training status, 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans and widows authorized commissary privileges.

Experience has shown that when the quality of a military member and his family's life have eroded, the resultant shifts in morale and exodus from the service are inevitably followed by a significant drop in readiness. The American Legion urges the Congress to fully fund these areas.

Much has been said and done to hold down spending in the name of reducing the federal budget deficit, and deficit reductions are already being assessed from the proposed defense budget. We in The American Legion believe that the United States should proceed resolutely toward the continued development of the Strategic Defense Initiative. The Armed Forces have seen a modernization effort unprecedented since the mobilization prior to World War II. Modernization, however, must be a continuing process and much needs to be done in all the Services if the United States is to maintain its military deterrence. To remain competitive with Soviet armor developments, for example, we believe the Army must continue its research and development efforts to integrate new armor modular technologies into its follow-on armor and anti-armor improvements in order to enhance U.S. armor lethality, survivability and fightability so as to match or defeat Soviet armor capabilities.

With regard to the Navy, we strongly urge the retention of 14-carrier battle groups as the minimum number required to ensure U.S. on-scene responses to world trouble spots and to project both sea and air power. We are supportive of development and production of the A-12 aircraft, the Navy Advanced Tactical Fighter and the V-22 Osprey (Tilt-Rotor) aircraft for the Marine Corps.

The Air Force's strategic modernization program includes the timely acquisition of Peacekeeper missiles, development of the small ICBM and Peacekeeper missiles in rail garrison, and deployment of a mixed strategic bomber force of B-2 bombers and advanced cruise missiles. Greater emphasis and priority needs to be placed on our global airlift capabilities with the production of the C-17 aircraft. Continued production of F-15 and F-16 aircraft, development of the Advanced Tactical Fighter, and continued production of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) and the Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting System (LANTIRN) weapons system are needed to enhance the effectiveness of our tactical fighter forces.

These modernization efforts must continue if our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen are to have the best available in modern tools for combat. They can deploy, fight and win, or impose the policy and will of the United States only if they are properly equipped and trained. Without troop levels of highly skilled, dedicated men and women, however, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrent force necessary for this nation to remain at peace.

Mr. Chairman, The American Legion strongly supports full-funding for the high school and collegiate Reserve Officer Training Corps programs. These ROTC programs, particularly at the high school level, are highly valued in communities throughout the country. They are noted for their character and discipline-building qualities which contribute immensely to making our youth better citizens. ROTC programs are cost-effective and, at the college-level, are the largest source of commissioned officers for the Total Force.

Since its beginning, The American Legion has been a strong advocate of the citizen soldier concept. We urge the Congress to continue to authorize and fund the most modern weapons systems for use by the Reserve Components. Undoubtedly, the Reserves and the National Guard stand to gain separating active duty service members. Hence, the Reserve Components need to be fully funded and yet will still require recruiting and retention incentives to fully man units at authorized wartime levels so they may accomplish their missions in the event of war.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this country averages from 15 to 26 natural disasters a year, and the National Guard and Reserves provide significant disaster relief assistance. Both the Guard and Reserves, in addition to Active Duty units, performed commendably during last year's Hurricane Hugo and California Earthquake disasters.

Mr. Chairman, attached to this statement are relevant resolutions passed by the last National Convention of The American Legion. We would ask you to accept them in the spirit of their having been offered by concerned citizens who have seen what happens when foreign policy fails, or when some foreign power perceives that the United States is unwilling, or unready, to defend its national interests. We thank you for this opportunity.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WILSON R. TIMMONS, Florida, *Chairman*

The American Legion over the past year has continued to support the Selective Service System by applying the following principles:

- (1) Maintenance of the Selective Service System as a viable preparedness measure;
- (2) The re-establishment of a completely operational Selective Service System in compliance with existing law, including Presidential induction authority;
- (3) Retention of the System even when on a standby basis, supported by an active state Selective Service headquarters with a state director in charge who is responsible for the maintenance of military mobilization plans and operations for the state;
- (4) A local board in a registrant's own community with the responsibility for determining his availability and the issuance of induction orders rather than depend on an untried, centralized computer system;
- (5) Training of a pool of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower Mobilization procedures, and a Selective Service System as an independent agency;

(6) Congress implement a system of Universal Military Training that will require every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 23 to serve a period of military training;

(7) The President and Congress provide the necessary directions and budgetary support to the Selective Service System so the mandates of the Military Selective Service Act are enforced so the Selective Service System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon; and

(8) Legislation be enacted requiring proof of selective service registration by any non-veteran male who applies for federal employment.

Reserve Officers Training Corps Program. The historic support for a strong and viable Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) was reaffirmed by Resolution 367-76, adopted at our 59th National Convention, and Resolution 474 adopted by the 64th National Convention. We resolved to staunchly support both the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Junior ROTC as exemplifying strong links in the traditional role of this citizen-soldier in the country and as one of the most outstanding programs for producing military officers and future leaders of our nation. We also strongly recommend that all college and university students take advantage of the tremendous opportunity for training, leadership and achievement which the ROTC represents.

Departments having ROTC units supported ROTC programs by either awarding or encouraging Posts under their jurisdiction to award and participate in the American Legion's ROTC Medal program. Response to this program has been outstanding. During the period from July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990, over 6,000 medals were awarded to deserving Senior and Junior level ROTC candidates. Presentations of medals were made to ROTC units in 50 States, the District of Columbia, as well as the Departments of Puerto Rico and France.

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy. The National Executive Committee at their October 1975 meeting approved Resolution 21, which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC program in their States during the year. The trophy honors the memory of Past National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and throughout his lifetime maintained an active interest and participation in our nation's defense.

Criterion for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the Department giving the greatest degree of support to the ROTC programs to include the number of medals presented and Legion participation in award day ceremonies this year. This year's winners of the Paul H. Griffith Trophy are the Departments of Alaska, Delaware, Florida and Minnesota.

NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JOHN J. WRENN, Massachusetts, *Chairman*

Guided by resolutions adopted at the 68th, 69th, 70th, and 71st National Conventions, the Naval Affairs Committee has worked to strengthen the U.S. Navy during the past year. We begin with the premise that sea lanes are the life lines of America, both in peacetime and war. Additionally, with the advent of President Reagan's election, the United States entered a period of more forceful diplomacy. The United States is no longer hesitant about sending powerful signals to aggressors that we will not stand idly by and watch while they conduct violent takeovers of legitimate governments, particularly when those takeovers are contrary to the national interests of the United States. This new diplomacy requires a more mobile, more flexible and more capable armed forces; in particular, an expanded United States Navy.

The Secretary of Defense is faced with the decision on how best to maintain the strength of the Navy. A decreased number of combatant ships and the choices are relatively limited.

The United States Coast Guard has faced the same rising costs associated with inflation as the other services. The problem of funding has become so crucial in the Coast Guard that this service is barely able to perform its statutory mission and in some cases, has had to reduce some of its enforcement activities to stay within the funding limitations imposed by Congress. At the 71st National Convention, the delegates adopted a resolution calling for adequate financial support for the Coast Guard.

Adequate funding must be provided to the Navy for the continued development of its forces on and under the sea, and in the air, so that strong, modern, effective sea power can be effectively deployed with the forces of other services. The Naval Affairs Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward this goal.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

THOMAS C. KOUYEAS, District of Columbia, *Chairman*

LEW WOOD, Indiana, *Director*

The Public Relations Commission oversees and coordinates all activities and programs designed to publicize the work of The American Legion among members and non-members alike. The goal of the Commission and its staff in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C., is to properly position The American Legion before the media and public.

Staff Coordination

The National Public Relations Commission, a service element of the National Organization, is charged with meeting the many challenges inherent in increasing public understanding and acceptance of the programs and positions of The American Legion.

The Public Relations Commission during the 1989-1990 Legion program year met a variety of objectives, tested new communications methods, and continued to meet the growing support demands of all program Commissions.

Audiovisual productions were completed in support of the American Legion Magazine Commission, Membership and Internal Affairs Commission, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, the Americanism Commission and the Children and Youth Commission. As in previous years, all program Commissions efforts were included in on-going public service announcements for the broadcast media and special print feature service mailings to the nation's newspapers.

Special Projects

The campaign for a constitutional amendment to protect the American Flag from desecration was supported by the Public Relations Commission through a variety of special print publications, a television commercial and a myriad of continuing interviews with media representatives from coast-to-coast. Throughout the program year Public Relations support for all Commissions involved in advancing the constitutional amendment process remained flexible to meet special needs.

Public Relations Commission members supported the National Emergency Fund effort to raise \$1 million for special disaster relief by producing a four-color booklet: "A Long Road Back" as well as a video presentation.

The impact story of veterans' programs on the nation was detailed in the booklet: "America's Smart Investment." This publication was distributed to government leaders and media centers.

Efforts to focus public attention on the problems Vietnam veterans associate with exposure to Agent Orange continued at a high level. A special reprint of articles from the American Legion Magazine was prepared and widely circulated among the nation's lawmakers and media. For the first time the Legion used Video News Release technology to provide interviews and accurate information to television stations in response to the Centers for Disease Control's Selected Cancer Studies announcement.

A special promotion effort was dedicated to the Legion's announcement of the Option Four American Legion Student Loan Program, a one-stop shopping concept for college scholarship funds.

The National Convention Festival celebrated The American Legion's first-ever National Convention in the organization's hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana. The successful lawn-party for some 20,000 visitors was highlighted by the appearance of The American Legion band from Waltham, Massachusetts. The band, under the direction of Dottie Hill, had entertained crowds in Moscow and Leningrad in May, during the U.S.S.R.'s "Victory Day" celebrations.

Awards

The 1990 Fourth Estate Award was presented to Margaretta A. Downey of the Poughkeepsie Journal, Poughkeepsie, New York, for an editorial series focusing on the "Crisis in Housing." A Certificate of Excellence in Journalism was presented to KSDK-TV, St. Louis, Missouri, for their program "Taking Care," which campaigned for affordable day care.

The 1990 National Commander's Public Relations Award was presented to the authors of the book "The Wages of War," Richard Severo and Lewis Milford.

The American Legion Department Media Award winners included: Radio Station of the Year, WLVL-AM, Lockport, New York; Television Station of the Year, KXON-TV, Claremore, Oklahoma; Daily Newspaper of the Year, the Union Leader, Manchester, New Hampshire; and Weekly Newspaper of the Year, the Cresson Mainliner, Cresson, Pennsylvania.

Communications Efforts

The American Legion News Service (ALNS) continued to provide bi-weekly news and feature information to more than 17,000 addresses. All Legion posts, VA hospitals; Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices; U.S. Senators and Congressmen; and Governors routinely receive the publication. The ALNS is also provided to more than 1,000 weekly newspapers to increase exposure of Legion programs and concerns.

Other communication tools used by the Commission include the monthly ADVANCE and the National Adjutant's Newsletter.

The Commission continued periodic use of photo feature mailings to daily and weekly newspapers on Legion-oriented topics.

Additional Support

The Commission continued to provide timely and effective support for the National Commander and other Legion officers throughout the year. Suggested speeches for patriotic holidays and in support of special Legion concerns continued to be prepared. Holiday artwork and cooperative advertisements were again circulated via ALNS. Publication of the National Headquarters Employee newsletter, Logon, remains a Commission responsibility.

Challenges

As the communications environment continues to change with the introduction of new technology, the Public Relations Commission must continue to explore the potential of this technology to meet its objectives. The American Legion story is a heart-warming story of time-honored traditions steeped in family values. It deserves to be told over and over again, so the next generation of Americans will have a strong foundation to build upon.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE COMMISSION

MILFORD A. FORRESTER, South Carolina, *Chairman*

The American Legion Magazine achieved record advertising revenues in 1989 of \$5,947,898—a \$296,000 increase over sales in 1988. Current sales are ahead of projections, and the magazine is well on its way to meeting its goal of \$6.3 million for 1990.

Advertising revenues were generated through the efforts of Publisher's Representatives Fox Associates, Inc., whose 18-person sales force is located in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco and London, England. Several innovative strategies have been used this year to draw the attention of potential major clients, including the magazine's participation in a study conducted by Mediamark Research, Inc., the nation's leading media research corporation that provides demographic and product preference information about our readers to potential advertising clients.

The success of any advertising venture is closely related to its editorial quality. Most advertisers want their products placed in a publication that reflects the values of mainstream America. Major strides were made in 1989-90 with interviews and articles written by President George Bush, and Cabinet Secretaries James Baker, Elizabeth Dole, Richard Cheney and Edward Derwinski and Nicaragua's President Violeta Chamorro. These and other prominent authors and experts recognize the need to speak to America about significant issues and know they can do that through The American Legion Magazine.

Editorial

Also during the past year, special editorial emphasis helped further challenges before The American Legion—passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the

U.S. Flag, the establishment of The American Legion National Emergency Fund, and the continuing battle to get compensation for Agent Orange victims and their families. The June 1990 issue included a special 16-page section about the U.S. Flag, which contained articles featuring Judge Robert Bork, U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens and Rep. Charles Douglas of New Hampshire. The magazine provided in-depth coverage of the damages and problems wrought by 1989's Hurricane Hugo and the Loma Prieta earthquake in northern California, which resulted in the establishment of the NEF. Also, the magazine's ongoing coverage of the Agent Orange controversy and the organization's research into the health problems of Vietnam veterans exposed to the herbicide were given a wide range of coverage over the last year.

Year Ahead

The magazine will focus on increasing its advertising revenues in 1990-91 while keeping other operational areas on solid fiscal ground. Postal rates are stable, but an increase of 45 percent is predicted for the first quarter of 1991. It's estimated that the increase will add \$1,250,000 to the magazine's postage expenses. Editorial content will continue to reflect interesting and substantive articles about national and international events. Coverage of veterans' issues and Legion concerns will remain a priority.

The goal for the 1990-91 year is to aggressively pursue ways to make The American Legion Magazine more attractive and to promote its marketability.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

CHESTER F. STELLAR, Ohio, *Chairman*

JOHN F. SOMMER, JR., Ohio, *Director*

The Seventy-First Annual National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Fall and Spring meetings of the National Executive Committee have approved programs expressed in resolutions submitted to those bodies through the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

The following report covers the activities of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff during the year ending June 30, 1990. The first section of the report describes the action taken on all resolutions assigned to the Commission for consideration, and the status shown as of June 30, 1990, the date of this report.

Beginning with the 1989 National Convention, the Commission received a total of 67 resolutions for appropriate action and consideration. There follows a breakdown of these resolutions by source and type:

54 from the 1989 National Convention

21 approved resolutions

33 referred resolutions

13 from the National Executive Committee

8 from the National Adjutant at the meeting of October 18-19, 1989 ("register resolutions")

5 from the National Adjutant at the meeting of May 2-3, 1990 ("register resolutions")

The status of these resolutions upon which action has been taken as of the end of the reporting period is set forth below, beginning with those covering the 1989 National Convention, followed by those presented and referred by the National Executive Committee.

1989 National Convention Approved Resolutions

Policy

Resolution No. 4 (SD)—Urge the Congress and the President to provide sufficient health care funding for veterans. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 7, 1990. The Director testified on this resolution before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 23, 1990. The Director further testified before the Sub-

committee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, on March 14, 1990. On May 2, 1990 the Director testified before the Subcommittee in VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations.

Resolution No. 22 (MA)—Urge the restructuring of salary for all positions in the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified on this resolution before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 7, 1990. The Director testified on February 23, 1990 before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. On June 14, 1990 the Deputy Director testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Director further testified before the Department of Veterans Affairs Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care on June 20, 1990.

Resolution No. 108 (OK)—Oppose the merger of the Medical Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Armed Forces including CHAMPUS. The Director testified on this resolution before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on March 14, 1990. The Director further testified on June 20, 1990 before the Department of Veterans Affairs Future Structure of Veterans Health Care.

Resolution No. 160 (WI)—Support legislation to amend Public Law 99-272 that shall retain the entitlement provisions of the Act while eliminating the requirements for the Means Test and Third Party Reimbursement. The National Commander presented The American Legion's position on this resolution before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees on September 19, 1989. The Deputy Director testified before the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, United States Senate, on June 14, 1990. The Deputy Director further testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, on June 20, 1990.

Resolution No. 216 (VA)—The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified on this resolution before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 21, 1990. The Director testified on May 2, 1990 before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Assistant Director for Information Management further testified on this resolution before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, on May 16, 1990. The Deputy Director testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on June 14, 1990.

Medical and Hospitals

Resolution No. 218 (VA)—Urge Congress to provide adequate funds to enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a planned program of maintaining an up-to-date system of health care facilities. The National Commander testified on this resolution before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees on September 19, 1989. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on June 7, 1990. On June 14, 1990 the Deputy Director testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. The Director testified before the Department of Veterans Affairs Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care on June 20, 1990. The Deputy Director further testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care on June 20, 1990.

Resolution No. 314 (CA)—Oppose further curtailment of VA health care benefits for veterans. The National Commander testified before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees on September 19, 1989. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified on this resolution before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on June 7, 1990. The Director presented The American Legion's position on this resolution before the Department of Veterans Affairs Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care on June 20, 1990.

Resolution No. 359 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation)—Urge the continuation of Field Offices of Regional Medical Directors in the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified on this resolution before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on May 18, 1990.

Claims and Rating

Resolution No. 315 (CA)—Support legislation to amend section 314, title 38 USC, so as to increase rates of disability compensation. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs April 19, 1990. The Assistant Director for Information Management further testified

on this resolution before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 18, 1990.

Resolution No. 316 (CA)—Support legislation to amend section 411, title 38, USC, to increase the monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs April 19, 1990. The Assistant Director of Information Management further testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 18, 1990.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 321 (GA)—The American Legion Policy on the National Cemetery System. The National Commander presented The American Legion's position on this resolution before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees on September 19, 1989. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 7, 1990. The Director testified on March 29, 1990 before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Director further testified before the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations on May 2, 1990. The Assistant Director for Information Management testified on May 18, 1990 before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1989 National Convention Referred Resolutions

Policy

Resolution No. 23 (MA)—Oppose any further reductions, restrictions or elimination of benefits and services for veterans in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively.

Resolution No. 33 (NE)—Seek a Class Action Lawsuit on behalf of veterans. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 46 (MT)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC so as to establish a mandatory treatment of all veterans in VA medical care facilities. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 109 (OK)—Urge the Congress to provide benefits and medical care to all honorably discharged war veterans who need them. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 129 (OH)—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to forbid the denial of a veteran to the right of a jury trial in the Court of Veterans Appeals. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 223 (DC)—Urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to survey all excess DOD real estate to determine the feasibility of taking possession of such property. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 239 (DC)—Oppose the imposition of a 1% productivity increase as it applies to VA medical care staffing. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 287 (MN)—Seek administrative and legislative amendments so as to provide authority for all VA medical centers to retain from Third Party Reimbursement collections all cost of processing such claims. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be approved.

Resolution No. 302 (AZ)—Urge the Federal Government to provide full benefits and services to all Navajo veterans. This resolution remains in study status.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 58 (IL)—Support the establishment of a National Cemetery at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Resolution No. 114 (MO)—Support legislation to amend section 906, title 38, USC, so as to permit issuance of a government headstone or marker for any eligible veteran. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively.

Resolution No. 180 (MI)—Support legislation to amend Chapter 23 of title 38, USC, so as to permit issuance of a government headstone purchased prior to the death of a veteran. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded.

Resolution No. 217 (VA)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract for space in private cemeteries. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively.

Medical and Hospital

Resolution No. 12 (ND)—Support legislation to authorize outpatient treatment for any service-connected condition evaluated at 30 percent or more disabling. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 14 (MA)—Oppose the cessation of authorization for fee basis home health aides to assist certain totally disabled veterans. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 317 (CA)—Seek the establishment of a fee basis program for the provision of medical care to veterans residing in rural areas. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 345 (MD)—Urge the Federal Government to set aside 100 acres of surplus land at Ft. Meade, MD for the purpose of constructing a State Veterans Home. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 353 (PR)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with a private hospital in Ponce, Puerto Rico to provide emergency treatment to veterans. This resolution remains in study status.

VA Hospitals

Resolution No. 15 (MA)—Urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make a prompt decision with respect to the replacement or renovation of the Boston VA Medical Center. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded.

Resolution No. 35 (NE)—Support the continued operation of the surgical ward at the VAMC, Hot Springs, South Dakota. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Resolution No. 57 (IL)—Seek the establishment of an Outpatient Clinic in Decatur, IL. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 116 (MO)—Urge the support of Missouri Legionnaires in requesting the Department of Veterans Affairs to name the VA Medical Center at Kansas City, MO in honor of general Omar N. Bradley. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively.

Resolution No. 117 (MO)—Urge continued American Legion support and adequate funding to maintain an Outpatient Clinic and Treatment Center for veterans at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 200 (PA)—Urge Congress to appropriate the necessary funds to update the condition of the VA Medical Centers in Lebanon and Philadelphia, PA. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 250 (KS)—Urges the re-naming of the VA Medical Center at Leavenworth, KS as the Dwight David Eisenhower Veterans Administration Center. The resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 313 (CA)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to study the closing of Mather Air Force Base for the purpose of establishing a replacement hospital for the Martinez VAMC. This resolution remains in study status.

Claims and Rating

Resolution No. 19 (MA)—Support improvements in the death pension program. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 20 (MA)—Support improvements in the disability pension program. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 81 (OR)—Support legislation to amend 38 USC 3010 so as to provide that the effective date of an award of pension, compensation or DIC, in instances where such claims are unreceived or lost and re-submitted, shall be the date of submittal of such claim as certified by a recognized veterans service organization which is duly authorized to represent the claimant. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 126 (OH)—Support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to increase the burial allowance for service-connected deaths to an

amount sufficient to cover the cost of funeral and burial. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 231 (DC)—Support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to extend the one year presumptive period for malignant tumor to three years. This resolution remains in study status.

Resolution No. 238 (DC)—Urges the Secretaries of Defense and Transportation to direct that personnel being released from active duty be provided certified copies of their service medical records. This resolution was administratively transferred to the National Security Commission on February 2, 1990.

National Executive Committee Meeting October 18-19, 1989

Register Resolution No. 2213 (PA)—Support legislation to give the service-connected veteran the full amount of the COLA increase of 4.2% retroactive to January 1, 1988. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Register Resolution No. 2233 (NJ)—Seeks amendment of title 38, USC, to include former prisoners of war among those entitled to eligibility to a burial allowance. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded.

Register Resolution No. 2241 (PA)—Support an increase in VA health care and benefits. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded.

Register Resolution No. 2242 (PA)—Mandates The American Legion to oppose Medicare Catastrophic Coverage. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Register Resolution No. 2243 (PA)—Support legislation to exempt Agent Orange settlement funds "countable income" and resources under Federal means-tested programs. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded.

Register Resolution No. 2244 (WV)—Support veterans' smoking privileges in VAMCs and the continued sales of tobacco products in canteens. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Register Resolution No. 2245 (IL)—Support the establishment of a National Cemetery in Cissna Park, IL. The National Executive Committee at its October 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Register Resolution No. 2247 (PI)—Oppose the termination of authority for functions of Department of Veterans Affairs in the Republic of the Philippines. The National Executive Committee at its October 18-19, 1989 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

National Executive Committee Meeting May 2-3, 1990

Register Resolution No. 2253 (KS)—Urges The American Legion to take all steps necessary to bring about the revocation of a VHS&RA Circular (10-90-010) which implemented a so-called "Means Test" requiring veterans service-connected and rated 30% or less, who seek treatment for nonservice-connected disabilities, to complete an income screening evaluation before medical care is authorized. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively.

Register Resolution No. 2254 (IA)—Encourages The American Legion to initiate all action necessary to prohibit the VAMC, Iowa City, IA, from continuing its violation of PL 100-322, by denying outpatient treatment and medication to service-connected veterans rated 40% and below for their nonservice-connected disabilities. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Register Resolution No. 2255 (IA)—Urges The American Legion to encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to prohibit VAMC, Topeka, KS, from denying Iowa veterans inpatient care in Topeka's specialized PTSD unit. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively.

Register Resolution No. 2256 (IA)—Urges The American Legion to encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a uniform policy for all rating boards to accept objective findings from Clinical Psychologists for rating NP claims, especially for PTSD and Psychomotor Seizures. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

Register Resolution No. 2259 (PA)—Urges The American Legion to call for an amendment to PL 78-452, September 30, 1944, and PL 79-589, August 1, 1946, to 38 USC, Sections 716 and 717 to guarantee full payment of the present face value of the proceeds from NSLI as designated by the veteran, for payment to a principal beneficiary or contingent beneficiary in 120 equal installments. The National Executive Committee at its May 1990 meeting accepted the recommendation that this resolution be held for study.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held three meetings during the period September 3, 1989 through May 3, 1990 as follows:

The VA&R Commission met on September 3, 1989, in Room 310 of the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. A report was subsequently made to the National Executive Committee relative to the Commission's meeting.

A 13 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section of the VA&R Commission met at National Headquarters October 16-17, 1989, for the purpose of considering those matters which had previously been referred for study, and to discuss a broad range of other matters of a current nature. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on October 18, 1989.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met for the 67th consecutive year in Washington, DC, on February 28, 1990, in connection with the 30th Annual Washington Conference. The actions taken by the Commission during this meeting are contained in the Commission's Advance Report to the National Executive Committee, May 2-3, 1990, and also appear in the proceedings of that meeting.

A 10 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met on Apr. 30-May 1, 1990, at National Headquarters. Chairman Chester F. Stellar (OH) chaired the Subcommittee meeting. National Commander Miles S. Epling visited with the Subcommittee members and encouraged those present to continue their efforts on behalf of the nation's veterans. A report of this meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on May 2, 1990.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

For the eleventh consecutive year, eight National Leadership Workshops were conducted throughout the months of September and October, 1989. The meetings were held in the following cities:

- Region 1—Springfield, MA, October 27-29, Hotel: Springfield Marriott
- Region 2—E. Brunswick, NJ, October 6-8, Hotel: Ramada Renaissance
- Region 3—Charleston, SC, September 15-17, Hotel: Sheraton-Charleston
- Region 4—Oklahoma City, OK, September 29-October 1, Hotel: Hilton Inn West
- Region 5—Southfield, MI, October 27-29, Hotel: Radisson Plaza Hotel
- Region 6—Lincoln, NE, September 22-24, Hotel: Lincoln Hilton
- Region 7—Reno, NV, October 6-8, Hotel: Bally's Reno
- Region 8—Cody, WY, September 29-October 1, Hotel: Holiday Inn & Convention Center

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary met jointly at each Saturday morning session to discuss mutual interests. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission attended the Conference in their respective regions. The Regional Chairmen were in attendance at all Conferences.

Staff members of the VA&R Commission were present at each Conference providing those present with overviews of various topics relative to the VA&R program. Administrative developments with the Department of Veterans Affairs, significant legislative matters emanating from the 1989 National Convention and major VA&R programs were discussed.

Representatives of VA medical centers attended the Conferences for the purpose of discussing the impact of funding shortfalls on the provision of medical care to veterans. A significant number of questions were posed on the status of Category B and C veterans, and their access to medical treatment in VA facilities.

Noteworthy at all Conferences was the high percentages of first time attendees, and larger numbers of Post Service Officers.

ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

The 67th National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference was held February 26-February 27, 1990, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC. Participants included members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Department Service Officers and Rehabilitation Directors, County and Post Service Officers, members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and various National, Department and Post officials.

Mr. Chester F. Stellar, Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and A.V. "Bubba" Akin, Vice Chairman, presided at the sessions of the Conference. Addressing the Conference were National Commander Miles S. Epling, Mrs. William M. (Betty) Calder, President, American Legion Auxiliary, and Mr. Edward J. Derwinski, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, presentations were made by Congressman Bob McEwen (OH), member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; Mr. William M. Diefenderfer, Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Dr. Tom Bowles, Vice President for Medical Affairs at George Washington University.

During the Conference panel discussions were conducted that dealt with topics of vital concern to those in attendance. Subjects relating to the operations of the veterans' benefit programs, medical care, memorial affairs, and other pertinent subjects were entertained.

Prior to the Conference, for the ninth year, the Chairman of the Commission and members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation staff, met with Department Service Officers, for the Annual Department Service Officers Seminar. Topical subjects covering the field of veterans affairs and staff operations were discussed.

Conference Recommendations

The members of the Recommendations Committee met on February 27, 1990. No recommendations were received from the 1990 National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference or the 1989 Regional Leadership Workshops.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Legislative Activities

Over the past year, the staff of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has been very active in the area of legislation affecting veterans' benefits and programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, formerly the Veterans Administration. Such activities have included the preparation and presentation of testimony at hearings scheduled before Congressional Committees, as well as drafting legislation pursuant to the mandates adopted by the National Convention and the National Executive Committee. In addition, there has been continued liaison with the staff of the National Legislative Commission, officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, staffs of the Congressional Committees, and various Members of Congress.

The following is a brief summary of the Congressional hearings held since July 1, 1989 relative to the deliberation of Congress on matters pertaining to the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program.

(1) Only July 11, 1989, the Director testified before the Subcommittee on Human Resources, Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, on continuing studies on Agent Orange exposure and other problems that face Vietnam veterans.

(2) On July 19, 1989, the Chief of Insurance Activities presented testimony to the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the operations of VA's insurance program.

(3) On July 27, 1989, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, to comment on the status of the procurement and supply activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Acquisition and Material Management.

(4) On August 2, 1989, the Deputy Director testified before the Subcommittee on Education, Training, and Employment, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Education Policy Commission report.

(5) On September 19, 1990, National Commander Miles Epling appeared before a Joint Hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees to present The American Legion's legislative proposals for the second session of the 101st Congress.

(6) On September 13, 1989, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, to comment on VA research programs on the delivery of medical care, and in support of legislation to conduct pilot programs for the provision of assistive animals to quadriplegic and hearing impaired veterans.

(7) On September 27, 1989, the Chief of Insurance Activities presented testimony to the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on various legislative initiatives related to VA's insurance program.

(8) On February 7, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management presented testimony before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the Fiscal Year 1991 Budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(9) On February 21, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the Fiscal Year 1991 budget for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) On February 21, 1990, the Director of the Economics Division testified before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the status of the proposed fiscal Year 1991 National Cemetery System budget.

(11) On February 23, 1990, the Director testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, United States Senate, on the proposed funding for programs and operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Year 1991.

(12) On March 1, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the Department of Veterans Affairs programs for homeless veterans.

(13) On March 8, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the operations of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and legislative proposals affecting the provision of vocational, education and employment counseling services.

(14) On March 14, 1990, the Director testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, setting forth the Legion's views on the proposed Secretary's Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans' Health Care.

(15) On March 28, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the status of contractual nursing home care provided veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(16) On March 29, 1990, the Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, to provide the Legion's views on programs conducted by the VA's National Cemetery System, and to comment on legislation to expand eligibility for burial in national cemeteries.

(17) On April 4, 1990, the Director testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, United States Senate, to comment on legislation and to set forth the Legion's views on the proposed Secretary's Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans' Health Care.

(18) On April 19, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, in support of legislation providing improvements in benefits payable by VA to veterans who are disabled as a result of service to this nation and to the survivors of those who died as a result of service-connected disabilities, and to certain veterans in receipt of nonservice-connected disability pension benefits.

(19) On May 2, 1990, the Director testified before the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, on the Administration's proposed budget for veterans benefits and services, for Fiscal Year 1991.

(20) On May 2, 1990, the Director testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, in support of legislation for the Federal government to compensate those Vietnam veterans who are suffering from diseases and disabilities as a result of Agent Orange exposure, and the families of those who have died. This testimony also ad-

dressed several other concerns relating to the long-term health effects of Agent Orange on those Vietnam veterans who were exposed to the herbicide.

(21) On May 16, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management presented testimony to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, regarding the Legion's views on the continuing concerns of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War.

(22) On May 18, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, United States Senate, on legislation providing improvements in disability compensation and related benefits, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), and insurance programs.

(23) On June 7, 1990, the Assistant Director for Information Management testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, United States Senate, on issues of concern related to VA's prosthetics, spinal cord injury, and blind rehabilitation programs.

(24) On June 14, 1990, the Deputy Director testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, United States Senate, with regard to proposed legislation relating to veterans' health care services.

(25) On June 20, 1990, the Deputy Director testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on proposed legislation regarding third-party insurance recovery and to present the Legion's views on the means test program.

(26) On June 28, 1990, the Deputy Director testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on proposed legislation regarding the provision of mental health care services to veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES

During the year, through its informational services, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation staff endeavors to keep Legion officials and other parties fully informed of our program activities and functions. Preparation and distribution of various publications consume considerable time and effort, and publications based on various topics are disseminated routinely.

Publications are sent to Department Service Officers, members of the Commission, and many others interested in the Legion's rehabilitation program. For the Calendar Year 1989 a total of 44 Bulletins were issued. During the same time frame a total of 28 Memorandum letters were drafted and distributed. To date 30 Bulletins and 22 Memorandum letters have been distributed for 1990.

Special publications on particular subjects are printed and updated as the occasion arises, and the publication "We Want You To Know . . . And Receive" has gained national acclaim and widespread appeal by Department Service Officers. Supplies of this and other VA&R pamphlets are maintained for distribution as requested.

On an annual basis the staff revises The American Legion Post Service Officers Manual to reflect legislative and program changes. This publication has wide distribution. Sufficient copies are mailed to all Department Headquarters to provide one copy for each Post within the Department. The Post Service Officers Manual is an indispensable research tool for Post Service Officers in providing services to veterans and their dependents.

Additional responsibilities cover the required revision of other publications, and include: The American Legion Voluntary Service Handbook; Agent Orange-In Search of Answers; and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Program.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff endeavors to provide as much information as possible concerning our program to the various Divisions of the National Organization, Departments and individual Legionnaires and the general public.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Ten members of the National Cemetery Committee met with officials of the VA National Cemetery System (NCS) at Quantico National Cemetery on February 27, 1990, in conjunction with the 67th National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference. Present were: Bob Legan (AR), Chairman; Roger L. Smith (OH), Vice Chairman; and members Richard F. Stockwell (RI); Vernon K. Carstensen (MN); James C. Forsythe (OH); Virgil C. Christa (TN); Gil Moody (TX); Elton R. Adams

(WA); and Ralph Farris (LA). Past National Commander Joe Matthews (TX) was also present. Staff liaison to the Committee was John Vitikacs.

The Committee arrived at Quantico approximately 9:30 a.m. and departed roughly at 3:00 p.m. An extensive briefing was provided by officials of the NCS. Present at this briefing were Ms. Jo Ann Webb, Director-NCS; Mr. Norman Qualtrough, Executive Assistant to the Director; Mr. J. Metzler, Northeast Area Director; Mrs. P. Novak, Quantico Cemetery Director; Mr. Rapp, Mr. Gartland, Mr. Graber, and Mr. Barile—all officials of the NCS, VA Central Office. Overviews were provided on budgetary matters, grave markers, and the State Veterans Cemetery System. A brief tour of the Quantico National Cemetery was conducted.

The Committee was informed that Fiscal Year (FY) 1990 represents the most difficult budget year ever for the NCS. Current concerns primarily include equipment and operating cost shortages. There is a projected \$7 million equipment backlog facing the NCS. Each year roughly \$2.5 million is required for replacement equipment. Even with an FY 1990 budget increase of \$6.5 million, this initiative will not help reduce the current equipment backlog. When equipment breaks down, national cemeteries must contract with local firms to acquire vital and necessary services. This action in turn diverts funds from other important cemetery functions. For the NCS, for FY 1989, roughly \$81,000 was spent on contract costs. For the first four (4) months of FY 1990, \$48,000 had already been spent on contract costs. This figure projects to \$144,000 for the entire year. This cost includes both expected and unexpected contract obligations. Instead of the budget increase of \$6.5 million received in FY 1990, it was stated a real increase of \$10 million is necessary, with the majority of funds committed to equipment purchases.

It was also commented that the following points represent high NCS priorities:

1. To develop new NCS sites to prepare for an increased level of interments due to an aging veteran population.
2. To have the Department of Defense (DOD) transfer land to VA in conjunction with the proposed base closure of Ft. Sheridan, Illinois.
This action would require a legislative initiative.
3. Personnel expenses have been growing disproportionately to the overall NCS budget.
4. The active military has been unable to provide grave site ceremonies at NCS sites in close proximity to military bases.
5. The NCS is considering expanding public relations efforts to inform veterans and their dependents of burial rights.
6. Developing increased volunteer efforts among young school children and adults, promoting a greater sense of American history and patriotism.

Other subjects focused on included the graveliner program (which is progressing well), developing a weekend locator system, and the Presidential Memorial Certificate program.

It was remarked the only new cemetery funded to come on line is northern California. This expected by mid-1991. Four other sites (Chicago—Cleveland—Albany—Seattle) have been funded to conduct Environmental Impact Studies. These studies will be concluded in approximately one year. One other site (Dallas—Ft. Worth) is expected to be funded for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in FY 1990.

Currently, the NCS is interring 60,000 veterans per year. The headstone marker program issued 255,800 headstones in FY 1989. It is surmised that more veterans would choose to be buried in a national veterans cemetery if the cemeteries were located in greater population density areas. Since the lead time for development of a national cemetery is seven (7) years, more cemeteries will be required by the year 2000 to handle the anticipated deaths of WWII veterans. While the State Veterans Cemetery program is helpful, this program is not prepared to handle the increase in veteran interments.

Sufficient opportunity was provided for questions and answers in addition to the formal presentations. Upon returning from Quantico the Committee discussed overall finds and offered the following suggestions to the VA&R Commission concerning the National Cemetery System:

1. To urge Congress to fully fund Environmental Impact Studies at sites identified in the 1987 NCS study which have yet to receive funding.
2. To urge Congress to fund additional national cemeteries in high population density areas in order to be fully prepared to serve the burial interests of the aging veteran population.
3. To seek legislation to require the Department of Defense to transfer land at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois to VA for the development of a national cemetery, in conjunction with the proposed closure of said military base.

4. To urge Congress to provide adequate funding to the NCS for operational expenses and equipment purchases.
5. To promote volunteerism at national cemeteries on behalf of the youth of the United States to inculcate a greater sense of American history.
6. To encourage the active military to participate in gravesite ceremonies of veteran burials when located in close proximity to national cemeteries.
7. To increase public relations efforts at The American Legion post level to advance awareness of veteran burial rights.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CONSULTANT

The Senior Medical Consultant is Dr. Nikita Tregubov. The primary duty assigned to the medical consultant is to act as a source of medical/technical knowledge to the appeals and claims representatives in The American Legion offices at the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Washington Regional Office. The individual members refer case folders to the medical consultant for evaluation and advice as to the appropriate course to pursue in presenting the case. This may take place in the form of oral guidance or more frequently it will involve a written memorandum to the appeals representative who referred the case. The written report is generally summarized in person with the representative to be sure that he or she is fully cognizant of the appropriate method of handling the case. Certain cases are medically or technically difficult for a nonphysician to present and as such these cases are presented directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals by the medical consultant.

In addition to the actual consultative activities, the medical consultant is available for training sessions with the members of the entire VA&R Division staff. This is frequently utilized in the training of new field representatives and claims representatives.

It has become evident to us that this source of technical knowledge is also of extreme value to the service officers of The American Legion in the field. As a result of this, we have offered and encouraged the Department Service Officers to refer difficult cases to the Washington office or to call to discuss problem cases. There has been an increased utilization of this service over the past year. During personal discussions with the service officers at the various national meetings, they have expressed appreciation for this service and stated it has been of considerable help to them.

The Director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has used medical consultants in an advisory capacity for the work conducted by his office. This can be in the form of policy with regard to the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care system, or it may be in an advisory capacity on legislative approaches and testimony before the Congressional Committees. Occasionally, alleged administrative problems within VA have been drawn to the attention of the Director, who calls upon the medical consultant for the resolution of these problems. This may also be in the form of assisting in the placement of a veteran for medical care or to gain information concerning the medical care that a veteran is receiving. The medical consultant represents the Director at the monthly meeting with the Chief Medical Director along with other veterans service organization representatives to gain information concerning the recent operations and direction of the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration. These meetings allow The American Legion to express concern over the changes in the course of treatment being offered by the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

The United States Government, acting through the Department of Veterans Affairs, directly administers five life insurance programs for the veterans of WWI, WWII and the Korean Conflict periods, as well as a special program for veterans with service-connected disabilities. These programs have approximately 3.4 million policies in force with a combined life insurance coverage of over \$28 billion. Dividend distributions to veteran policyholders now are in excess of \$1 billion annually. These programs are administered under the titles of United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) for WWI veterans, and National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) for WWII, Korean War, and service disabled veterans. A small separate program, providing mortgage protection for certain totally disabled veterans, is administered by the St. Paul, MN VA Center and is entitled Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance.

In addition to those directly operated by VA, the Department also supervises two other government life insurance issues. These are the Servicemen's Group Life (SGLI) and Veterans Group Life (VGLI) insurance programs and they have provided protection since 1965 to active duty and reserve service personnel, and to recently

separated veterans. The programs are administered by the Prudential Insurance Company in Newark, NJ and give over \$224 billion of life insurance coverage to some 2.6 million current and recently separated military personnel.

The past year has seen several changes in the NSLI program deriving from increased earnings by the insurance trust funds (all invested in government securities only) and in the continuance of additional benefits work originally authorized by passage of Public Laws 100-322 and 100-687.

In 1988, by enactment of Public Law 100-322, some 120,000 annuitants of government life insurance under the NSLI program enjoyed a 50% increase in the amount of their monthly insurance award payment. On June 25, 1990 another increase was made effective, raising the amount payable by a further 25% over the base (guaranteed) rate of the pre-1988 period, or to a total increase now of 75% for those receiving annuities from NSLI policies prefixed by "V", "N" and "AN" codes on matured accounts. Additionally, some 750,000 veterans holding NSLI policies that participate in dividends and are prefixed by "V", "RS", "W" and "J" codes, and who use their annual dividends to buy additional paid-up amounts of life insurance, benefited in January 1990 from a 10% increase in the amount of such paid-up coverage, plus a raising by 10% in the rate at which future dividends will purchase extra paid-up insurance. The immediate increase in January amounted to over \$470 million in extra coverage for these policyholders.

Public Law 100-687 permitted the VA to pay interest on NSLI settlements from the date an insured becomes deceased until payment is actually made to a beneficiary, and to offer a substantial discount to live policyholders who desire to pay their premiums in advance. Data Processing and Program Management at the Philadelphia VA Insurance Center continues work on implementing these benefits and it is presently expected interest on settlements will be available in September 1990, and new premium discount rates on line in February 1991.

VA INSURANCE CENTERS—PHILADELPHIA, PA AND ST. PAUL, MN

The American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission staff at Philadelphia consists of a Chief of Insurance Activities, one Insurance Representative, a secretary and a stenographer. An associated office at the St. Paul Center has one Supervisor/Insurance Representative and one secretary.

The Chief of Insurance Activities and the Insurance Representatives must have a thorough knowledge of Government Life Insurance laws, regulations and procedures, and be able to analyze them correctly in order to properly represent the veteran and his or her beneficiaries. The Director and other interested personnel are kept informed on policy matters, changes in VA administrative procedures and all other related areas to include new legislation.

Daily operations involve a full range of services: the representation of insured veterans and their beneficiaries, the review of insurance case folders and supporting evidence (to include claims files as required), the furnishing of reports and assistance to insureds, beneficiaries, accredited field representatives and VA adjudicators, close liaison with Department Service Officers to ensure prompt and complete service, and input to, review of, and where necessary the correction of VA actions both on cases involving disability and death claims and those involving any of a large variety of accounting/financial transactions taking place on both active and matured accounts. General insurance information and guidance is provided to field Service Officers across the country, along with assistance in the preparation of insurance appeals and various other matters pertaining to the life insurance programs. Coordination with VA executive personnel is conducted both on individual cases and broad policy matters as needed.

For the period July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990 the following activities of The American Legion's Philadelphia and St. Paul offices were reported:

Letters Received	4,743
Letters Written	6,464
Disability Insurance Claims	915
Death Insurance Claims	2,408
Insurance Folders Reviewed	6,806
In-Force Policy Accounts Reviewed	6,954
Telephone Contacts	4,399
Personal Contacts	4,408
Claims, Evidence and Other Submittals Presented*	7,245

*Includes policy transactions such as dividend, loan and premium items, plan conversions, liability refunds, beneficiary changes, claims with related medical and legal data, wills, estate documents, payment tracers, basic record data changes, general inquiries and so forth.

CLAIMS SERVICE

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission provides assistance and representation to veterans, their dependents, and survivors in claims with the VA through a staff of 14 accredited representatives. All representatives are Vietnam Era Veterans. The Assistant Director for Operations is responsible for the overall operation of the three units of this service.

Within the Table of Organization, four claims representatives, one secretary, and one supervisor are assigned to assist claimants whose cases come under the jurisdiction of the Washington, DC VA Regional Office; six appeals representatives, one secretary, one stenographer, and one supervisor are assigned to provide representation in cases coming before the Board of Veterans Appeals; and two representatives and one supervisor serve as counsel in cases coming before the Discharge Review Boards and Boards for the Correction of Military Records.

In providing this type of representation, the staff of the Claims Service is fortunate to have available the services of a medical consultant and the Washington Office legal consultant. They provide invaluable assistance in complex medical and legal cases.

In addition to the daily activity of these accredited representatives involving the preparation and presentation of claims and evidence, there are frequent meetings with supervisory and management personnel of VA and other agencies to secure policy and procedural determinations affecting the delivery of benefits to claimants. They also participate in regularly scheduled meetings with VA and other service organization representatives to discuss and exchange information and ideas concerning veterans benefits and services.

SPECIAL CLAIMS SERVICE

During the reporting period, the Special Claims Service of the Board of Appeals Unit reviewed and disposed of 110 cases involving requests by Department Service Officers for advisory opinions regarding VA policy or procedures in appeals or requests for administrative review by VA Central Office.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division provides this direct service to the Department Service Officers in their efforts to be of maximum assistance to claimants.

VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS CLAIMS

The American Legion maintains a claims staff composed of one supervisor, four claims representatives (two are currently assigned to the Board of Veterans Appeals unit), and one stenographer at the Washington, DC VA Regional Office, for the purpose of providing service assistance to veterans and their families whose claims come under the jurisdiction of this regional office. The areas served by this office include the District of Columbia, the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges, and the Virginia counties of Arlington and Fairfax. In addition to performing all of the same functions as any other in the country, this particular regional office has exclusive jurisdiction in certain types of cases. These include any case in which the claimant resides outside of the United States, with the exception of Mexico which is served by the Houston VA Regional Office, and the Philippines which is served by the Manila VA Regional Office. In addition, there are the following categories of cases: all military service rendered prior to July 6, 1903; general law cases where entitling service was rendered prior to April 21, 1898; cases involving entitlement under a Special Act of Congress; residents of the U.S. Soldiers Home, Washington, DC; and entitlement to benefits based on service in various Allied Forces.

In addition to providing direct service to veterans of the local area and overseas, this office, with its unique and diversified workload, is utilized as a training ground for all new accredited representatives of the Claims Service.

For the reporting period of July 1, 1989, through June 30, 1990, the staff of the Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit reviewed 1,319 VA claims files. Formal hearings were conducted in 15 cases and 475 were submitted to VA by memorandum. Evidence in support of claims was submitted in 2,729 cases. Congressional contacts numbered 15, personal contacts 445, telephone contacts 2,259 and dictation of letters and memoranda 1,560.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

This report reflects the activities of The American Legion Board of Appeals Unit for the period July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990. During these twelve months, the

Appeals staff reviewed a total of 9,131 cases for presentation of veterans appeals of which 348 were scheduled personal hearings. This was an overall increase of 14 hearings from the preceding reporting period.

Assisting in the review and presentation of complex medical cases is Dr. Nikita Tregubov, Senior Medical Consultant. During this period, 599 cases were referred by staff for his opinion.

In actions taken by the Board of Veterans Appeals during this reporting period, 6,701 cases were denied, 1460 were allowed, and 2,614 cases were remanded back to the Regional Office of jurisdiction for further development. Following the remand decision, 341 cases were allowed in the field. For this period the allowance rate for The American Legion was 13.5 percent which reflected an increase of 1.8 percent over the previous reporting period. The remand rate of 23.6 percent increased by 4 percent and the allowance rate of those cases allowed in the field was 13 percent.

ARMED SERVICES REVIEW AND CORRECTION BOARDS

Statutory authority for existence and operation of Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military and Naval Records is set forth in sections 1552, 1553, and 1554 of title 10, United States Code. During the period beginning July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990, staff representatives of this Commission assigned to duties before these Department of Defense Boards afforded service and representation in 905 applications in the following types of claims: disability retirement, reserve retirement pay, discharges under other than honorable conditions, and other corrections of Military, Naval and Air Force service records. Of this number represented, 105 formal hearings were conducted.

The following is a breakdown of the actions taken by the separate Service Department Boards.

	Pre-sented	Al-lowed	Pend-ing deci-sions
BOARDS FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL RECORDS			
Department of Air Force	88	15	25
Department of Army	273	33	43
Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard	69	8	16
Total	430	56	84
MILITARY AND NAVAL DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARDS			
Department of Air Force	49	8	15
Department of Army	175	24	26
Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard	251	21	18
Total	475	53	59
Combined Grand Total	905	109	143

STAFF WORKLOAD

Part of the overall activity of the various offices of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is reflected in the annual volume of correspondence. During this period, over 11,681 pieces of original correspondence were received, not including copies of correspondence from VA and Department of Defense to claimants in cases represented by the Washington and field offices. Correspondence received by the Insurance Offices in Philadelphia, PA and at St. Paul, MN, was in excess of 4,700. In response, the outgoing correspondence to VA, claimants, service officers and others, exceeded 7,000 pieces.

The following combined workloads were reported by the offices of the Claims and Insurance Service: over 18,161 cases were reviewed and presented to the various Boards of the VA and Department of Defense; 10,510 claims or evidence was filed, and there were 5,552 personal contacts.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

The National Commander continued to authorize the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission to conduct two separate three and one-half day training programs for Department Service Officers and other accredited representatives of The American Legion.

The purpose of the Department Service Officers School is to provide current technical information on a wide variety of issues relative to the proper development and presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program of instruction includes subjects such as the range of veterans benefits, claims processing, disability evaluation, rating procedures, development of appeals and advocacy skills. Instrumental material is extracted from all of VA's technical literature, manuals and program guides.

The goal of this school of formal training is to improve proficiency of American Legion Service Officers in counseling and representing veterans, their dependents and survivors in application for veterans benefits. Additionally, one sub-goal is to provide attendees the ability to provide training to other Service Officers in their respective Departments.

The Department Service Officers School represents a major effort by The American Legion to develop the necessary number of trained Service Officers to carry on the VA&R program. The cooperation and participation of the Departments is highly visible and well received. The benefits of this effort will be experienced by all those veterans the Legion is pledged to assist.

All students who successfully complete this course receive a Certificate of Training from the Department of Veterans Affairs. All attendees, instructors, and staff agree that this effort is extremely helpful and successful, and will benefit all attendees and their constituencies for years to come.

A sixth session of the Department Service Officer School was held in Indianapolis, July 18-22, 1989. The classroom sessions were conducted at the Hilton On The Circle Hotel. This was the third session in Indianapolis and was well attended and well received. Eighty-two attendees participated in the program. The school format remained the same and the basic information was updated and new areas of interest introduced. This format allows for continuing education of the more experienced Department Service Officers and allows the new Service Officers the opportunity to gain immediate benefits from the school.

The seventh session of the Department Service Officers School was conducted in Rosslyn, Virginia, during the period February 25-27, 1990, and was followed by the Annual Department Service Officers Seminar and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, held in Washington, DC.

Attendees included 84 participants from various Departments and fourteen members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division staff. Instructors were provided by VA's Compensation and Pension Service and staff at the VA&R Division.

Field Service

Field Service activities are promulgated for the period of July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990.

The National Field Representatives are under the operational control of the Assistant Director for Operations. There are four Field Representative positions and one secretary. During the reporting period there were three Field Representatives until March, 1990, when one person transferred to another position. The two vacant positions have been filled. (April 16, 1990 and May 1, 1990).

Field Service assignments/visits are made on a cyclical basis. During the period July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990, the Field Service staff made visitations to twenty eight (28) VA medical facilities. During these visitations, 125 survey recommendations were forwarded to VA Central Office. The recommendations are summarized as follows:

Major Construction Projects:

Replacement hospitals, Domiciliaries, Patient Buildings and/or Clinical Additions	5
Nursing Home Care Units (NHCUs)	13
Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Units	4
Other: Research Buildings, Laundry Plants, Parking Garages, Warehouses, Heating, Asbestos, Ventilation and Air Conditioning.....	16

Minor Construction Projects:

Renovations of Service areas and renovations for program expansion	29
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Program Development	20
Establish Treatment Programs:	
—Hospital Based Home Care	2
—Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	1
—Alcohol Dependence Treatment Program/Detoxification/Drug Program	2
—Other	12
—Affiliations	1
—Program Activation Funding	3
Outpatient Clinics:	
New Construction, Renovations, Expansions.....	1
Equipment:	
—	7
—	2
Resource Allocation Methodologies	3
Special Pay Authorization:	
—Special Pay Rates	4

The following issues will continue to be closely monitored during the next reporting cycle, July 1, 1990–June 30, 1991.

- Budget shortages
- Status of discretionary workload
- VAMC bed closures
- Shortage of pharmacists and physical therapists
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

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- Status of discretionary workload
- VAMC bed closures
- Shortage of pharmacists and physical therapists
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- Means Test/Third Party Reimbursement
- Resource Allocation Methodology
- New VA Nursing Home construction
- Major/Minor construction initiatives
- Decentralized Hospital Computer Program
- Quality Assurance reviews
- VA/DoD Sharing agreements
- VAMC patient smoking policies
- VA Security Service turnover rates
- Status of Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers
- Status of VAMC Special Salary Rates
- Recruitment/Retention Concerns
- Delays in Activation Projects

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The 43rd National Advisory Committee Meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service was held in Portland, Oregon on October 26–29, 1989.

One of the highlights of the program was the presentation of the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, during a luncheon held for that purpose. The recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship was Helen Chorjec, currently enrolled in Ohlone Community College, Fremont, California. Helen's volunteer efforts were carried out at the Palo Alto VAMC.

The American Legion representative on the National Advisory Committee is the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission who serves as National VAVS Representative. He was represented by the Deputy Director at the National Advisory Committee Meeting.

Special workshops were held for those present. The excellent presentations provided valuable information about volunteer motivation, making humor work, GRECC—The Next Step, and Youth VolunTeens. The theme of the Congerence was "New Frontiers in Volunteerism."

Presentations were made by the Director of the Medical Center, Dr. Barry L. Bell. He indicated that due to budgetary restraint the quantity of care would be reduced but quality of care would be maintained.

The Committee paid a special tribute to Marshall G. "Sam" Piper, Retired, for his longstanding leadership in Volunteer education.

Dr. James Parsley, Superintendent of Schools, Vancouver, Washington, presented an overview of experience based career education.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman, Chester F. Stellar, continues to view The American Legion Volunteer Program as a priority issue.

The American Legion, for the sixth consecutive year, has demonstrated substantial growth in both numbers of volunteers and hours contributed.

ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES

In completing VA Form 23-22, Power of Attorney, the claimant appoints The American Legion as their accredited representative in a claim for benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is the duty of the organization to provide assistance, advice, and counsel to veterans, surviving spouses, and other dependents so as to ensure their rights are protected and they receive all benefits to which they may be entitled under the law. The American Legion, as a Congressionally chartered veterans service organization, conducts this service program through the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Formal representation in veterans claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Regional Offices and Board of Veterans Appeals is provided by Accredited Representatives of The American Legion. These representatives have been recommended for accreditation by their respective Departments because of their knowledge, experience, and expertise in the field of Federal benefit programs, especially those provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Armed Forces.

To become an Accredited Representative, a formal application is made by the Department Commander or Department Adjutant on VA Form 2-21, to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, 1608 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. The Director as National Certifying Official, or the Assistant Director for Information Management as Alternate National Certifying Official, after officially certifying the form, will forward it to the General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs for action. This form should never be sent directly to the General Counsel as accreditation cannot be granted without the approval of the national certifying official of the organization. Upon approval of the application, the individual is recognized as an Accredited Representative of this organization and will receive official notification of this action from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The accreditation will remain in effect until such time as the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission receives written notification from the Department Commander or Department Adjutant requesting the cancellation of an individual's accreditation due to death, retirement, or resignation. The Director will notify the General Counsel that the accreditation should be canceled.

Additions and cancellations to the "List of Accredited Representatives" are reported monthly in VA Information Bulletin IB-2-151 published by the VA General Counsel's office. During the reporting period, 122 requests for accreditation and 55 requests for cancellation of accreditation were received from the Departments and submitted to VA for the necessary action. As of June 30, 1990, there were 971 Accredited Representatives of The American Legion. Any questions as to proper procedure, or regulations pertaining to the accreditation of individuals or their activities, should be directed to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in the Washington Office.

DISTRIBUTION OF VA RELEASES

To ensure that employees of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission are kept advised and informed of changes in the laws and regulations pertaining to veterans' programs, the Administrative section of the Director's office maintains a reference library, and distributes copies of new and revised VA regulations, information bulletins, as well as other publications of interest to all staff. Special requests from the field for a particular VA publication can be submitted to the Director's office and an effort will be made to obtain the publication from VA's Central Office Supply Depot, if available. However, an initial request should be made through the local Publication Officer located at the nearest VA installation.

Distribution of important VA releases that are received in bulk in this office, and not necessarily distributed through the local Publication Officer, are sent to Department Service Officers and members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in the field. When important VA decisions, new laws, or changes

in present regulations are received, this information is reported immediately by means of Rehabilitation Bulletins or Memorandums to the field.

It must also be remembered that because of VA's continuing efforts to effect cost savings, the number of copies of each item forwarded to service organizations has been cut. If necessary, when no further printing of a specific VA item is planned, we will attempt to reproduce the item. Size and the number of pages will, of course, determine whether or not this reproduction may be accomplished.

PERSONEL AND ORGANIZATION

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division of the Washington Office underwent a number of changes during the period from July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990.

Frank C. Buxton was appointed Deputy Director, John Naveau and Brian "Tim" Jones were brought on board as Field Representatives. Clayton Klemm was employed as an Appeals Representative I. Fred Merriwether joined the Legion as Project Director of the Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program. Promotions included Carroll Williams to Assistant Director for Program Management, John Vitikacs to Resource Development Specialist, and Thomas Holland to Supervisor, Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit. Walter Stone was promoted to Project Director of the Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program following Fred Merriwether's resignation. Other resignations included Terrie Fuell and Anna McCarthy. Transferred to the Board of Veterans Appeals Unit were Douglas Wheat, Henry Taylor and Ray Dean Spencer from Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit and Lily Ma from the Washington Office Administrative Service. Richard S. Christian assumed the position of Management Information Consultant. Barbara Steadman transferred to the Department of Defense Unit from the Board of Veterans Appeals. Harry Bennett was transferred from the VA&R Administrative Section to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Andy Aelmore (KS), Fred Miller (KY), John Mooney (NY) and Fred Smith (PA) were appointed State Coordinators in the Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program.

Legion Service Officers were provided technical training at the seventh and eighth Department Service Officers Schools conducted in Indianapolis and Washington, DC. VA&R Division personnel participated in eight Regional Leadership Workshops throughout the country. Cross-training of Claims and Appeals personnel is ongoing.

The June 1990 table of organization of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division is as follows:

Washington Office:

Director	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Subtotal	2
Deputy Director	1
Resource Development Specialist	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Program Management	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Information Management	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Operations	1
Field Representatives	5
Secretaries	2
Supervisor, Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit	1
Claims Representatives	4
Secretary	1
Supervisor, Board of Veterans Appeals Unit	1
Appeals Representatives	5
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Supervisor, Discharge Review and Correction Boards Unit	1
Review Board Representatives	2
Consultant	1
Medical Consultants	2

Medical Secretary.....	1
Subtotal	36
Total Washington Office	38
Insurance Field Offices:	
Philadelphia:	
Chief, Insurance Activities.....	1
Insurance Representatives.....	2
Secretary	1
Stenographers.....	2
Subtotal.....	6
St. Paul:	
Supervisor, Insurance Activities.....	1
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Subtotal.....	3
Total Staff:	
Washington Office.....	38
Field Offices.....	9
Total	47

STAFF FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

John F. Sommer, Jr., Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission attended the 1989 National Convention in Baltimore, MD; National Leadership Workshops in East Brunswick, NJ, and Cody, WY; Fall NEC meetings; 5th Annual meeting of the Society for Traumatic Stress Studies in San Francisco, CA; MBO Meeting in Indianapolis, IN; participated in Service Officers Conferences in Barboursville, WV, and Jekyl Island, Georgia; Spring NEC meetings; VA Regional Office Directors meeting Phoenix; Vermont Department Convention, and visited the Legion Insurance office in St. Paul, MN.

Richard S. Christian, Deputy Director, participated in the following: Spring and Fall NEC meetings; National Leadership Workshops in East Brunswick, NJ, Charleston, SC; VAVS National Advisory Commission to Portland Oregon; attended National Convention in Baltimore, MD.

Frank Buxton was appointed Deputy Director in January 1990 and attended the Spring NEC meeting.

Harold T. Kelly, Assistant Director for Operations, made a visitation trip to VAMC Montrose, NY; attended 1989 National Convention in Baltimore, MD; National Leadership Workshops in Springfield, MA; and Lincoln, NE; Post Service Officers Seminar in Des Moines, Iowa; Department of Virginia Convention.

Philip R. Wilkerson, Assistant Director for Information Management, attended the 1989 National Convention in Baltimore, MD; Service Officers School in Higgins Lake, MI; National Leadership Workshops in Charleston, SC, and Reno, NV.

Harry K. Bennett, Assistant Director for Program Management, during this reporting period attended the 1989 National Convention in Baltimore, MD; National Leadership Workshops in Oklahoma City, OK and Southfield, MI; and the Fall NEC meeting.

Newly appointed Assistant Director for Program Management, Carroll Williams, attended the Spring NEC meeting.

Field Representatives made visitations to Veterans Administration Medical Centers in the following Departments: New York, California, Indiana, Kansas, West Virginia, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Nevada, Idaho, Texas, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Other staff members attending the National Convention in Baltimore, MD with the Director, Deputy Director and three Assistant Directors, were Ms. Sharon Mather, Ms. Sylvia Salaz and Dr. Tregubov, Senior Medical Consultant.

Also during the reporting period, the Director, two Assistant Directors and the Claims Staff attended the Department Service Officers School in Indianapolis.

Appeals Supervisor, Carol Rutherford participated in the Missouri Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Employee Training Conference.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Under authority of May 1958 NEC Resolution, we have continued the program of awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, upon their retirement or resignation, "for services rendered and cooperation extended in connection with The American Legion's rehabilitation program." Under criteria established in line with the enabling resolution, nominations for the award are submitted by Department or National officials of The American Legion twice a year. The nominations are considered by a committee of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission at meetings preceding the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, and the National Convention. The Committee recommends to the Commission the names of those considered deserving of the Certificate.

Fourteen Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded during the period July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990, for an overall total of 1,003 since the program was initiated.

CITATIONS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This Citation, authorized by the National Executive Committee in May 1956, seeks to recognize the long and faithful service of Post Service Officers and others. Nominations for the Citation are submitted by Department officials to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director at any time; the Director, acting for the Chairman and members of the Commission, issues the award.

One hundred and twenty-one Citations "for meritorious service and loyal cooperation in The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program" have been presented during the period July 1, 1989-June 30, 1990. Since this type of recognition and appreciation began, a total of 3,248 Citations for Meritorious Service have been presented.

VIETNAM VETERANS FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The objective of The American Legion's Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program is to develop an outreach and referral network to assist Vietnam veterans and their families to gain access to services for genetic and family counseling and for children with special health needs. The network has been developed and is operational in four states (Kansas, Kentucky, New York, and Pennsylvania). The network, to date, has been successful in referring 739 veterans spouses and children to health services in the four states.

In addition to the network, the infrastructure for maintaining the network has also been developed in the four states. This includes the State Coordinators who manage the program, and an Advisory Committee for coordinating the program with the Posts in each state. A computer assisted data base has been developed to identify the appropriate referral health services, a public service (PSA) video and news releases for promoting the program, and an automated reporting system for evaluation of the activities of the network. A technical assistance manual for replicating the program in other states has also been developed.

The initial objectives of the program during the first year was to create a system that could be replicated in a minimum of eight American Legion Departments during the second year of operation of the project. The technical assistance manual for replicating the system has been developed and is ready to be distributed to the eight states participating in the second year of the operation of the program.

The Department Headquarters in Kansas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New York have appointed Advisory Committees with key Legion personnel to assist with developing a comprehensive state plan for outreach and referral activities to achieve the objectives of the program. The committees by-and-large are adjunct to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation committees with representation from other programs of the state Legion organization. In all cases the Department Adjutant is a member. In some states the State Commander serves as a member, with representation from the Districts and the Department Service Officers.

The primary function of the committee is to develop and promote the Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program at the Post level. This will be accomplished by communicating a plan of action which will include an awareness program for the media and Post members, outreach and referral documentation, training for Post representatives, budget development, referral projections for the next two years, and fund raising. Each of the Advisory Committees will function to communicate the state plan to the Post membership and the local communities. National Headquarters has approved the development of a public service announcement (PSA)

video for use in the major TV markets in the states with an American Legion Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program. The production schedule will be completed by August 3, 1990 and the first tapes shipped to selected television stations. The State Coordinators have submitted the names of the cities and television stations to receive information about the tape. The PSA will also be utilized in the eight additional states in which the program is being implemented.

The 30 second video scripts can also be used as a radio PSA. A decision is pending whether to spend additional funds to use the scripts on radio.

The purpose of the technical assistance manual is to define and illustrate a process by which The American Legion, the Departments, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Posts and Units, can serve as a catalyst in providing help to Vietnam veterans and their families in need of health services.

The manual has been distributed to the VVFAP program and the four states for comment. It is currently being revised and will be available for distribution to the eight new states by August 1, 1990. The major revisions include a redefinition of the data base and the development of a report program. The agencies in the data base have been reclassified and indexed based on comments from the State Coordinators. This revision redefines the categories of services based on the predominate service offered by a state health agency or veterans service agency rather than defining the service based on the specific requirements of the veteran. The redefinition will facilitate the search for specific services offered by health agencies in the state based on the needs of the veteran.

The total number of referrals varied by state. Kansas and Kentucky were fairly close in the total number of referrals with 225 and 256 respectively. This is due in part to the fact that they were the first states to enter the program. New York and Pennsylvania, reported about the same number of total referrals, 123 and 135 respectively. Kentucky reported 35 percent of all referrals, followed by Kansas with 30 percent and Pennsylvania and New York with 17 and 18 percent respectively. The primary reason for New York being the lowest is because it was the last state to become operational.

The strength of the Legion's Assistance program is the emerging involvement of the Districts and Posts. Their officers and volunteers are becoming involved in outreach and promotion of the program by including the Assistance program in their ongoing functions and activities. The formation of the Advisory Committees will support the Districts and Posts in their outreach activities by giving them the organizational recognition for participating in the Assistance program.

The developments at the Post level during the first year will continue to be emphasized during the second year's operation of the program.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MRS. MARGARET YANKOVICH, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

The slogan that was selected for use in the VA&R program this year was, "We Are Volunteers Every Day." Using the acronym WAVE, we caught the spirit and passed it on to others as we wore our red and white WAVE buttons. The volunteer spirit of our organization is a remarkable and tangible thing that we can all take pride in and be grateful that we are a part of an organization that can truly say that we are volunteers every day. The information in this report reflects the extent of this remarkable volunteer spirit.

With annual reports from fifty-two Departments we are able to report that the totals in this report reflect 79.98% of the Units reporting. One of the problems of reporting is the failure on the part of some Units to report their activities and money spent. To those who will review this report, they must realize that had the other 21.12% of the Units reported, the figures in this report would be much greater.

The excellent attendance at all of the National Regional Leadership Workshops indicated a desire on the part of the grass-roots volunteers to learn and share their ideas with others. With the help of a very capable National VA&R Committee, we were able to interact with the members in attendance and everyone benefited by this learning and sharing experience. We all had the added benefit of sharing a part of the meeting with The American Legion VA&R staff from the Washington office under the direction of Director, John F. Sommer, Jr. We appreciate the assistance of The American Legion in providing valuable information through the video entitled,

"What To Do Before A Veteran Dies." Current problems and issues concerning veterans and their families were also shared in the joint meeting. It was a real pleasure to work with The American Legion VA&R staff.

In the plan of work, for this year, we directed the Department VA&R Chairmen to work with four major points of emphasis. Recruitment of new Hospital; Field Service and Home Service Volunteers; volunteer recognition; the aging and homeless veteran; and service to all veterans. The combined report of all of the phases of the VA&R Committee reflects the gains that were made and the dedication of the membership to this program is quite evident.

The cost of direct aid cases by Units was \$565,957.00. This is financial aid given directly to veterans. This amount was spent by 7,667 Units. Indirect aid totaled \$660,051.00 with 71,370 veterans and families being assisted by such things as emergency help in paying rent, utility bills, food baskets, clothing and other necessary items that come under the umbrella of indirect aid. In addition a total of \$2,498,925.00 was spent by Units on veteran programs not reported elsewhere. Departments expended a total of \$794,958.00 from Department funds for VA&R program expense. The grand total of expenditures by Units and Departments came to \$4,520,724.00. That is over 4½ million dollars worth of giving for this program for just one short year. What a remarkable organization of women we are, to care so much and to give this kind of financial support to veterans in need.

In addition, the Units and Departments were involved with the purchase of veteran made crafts. A total of \$119,630 was spent in the thirty-eight Departments that participated in the craft purchasing program. This amount is not included in the over 4½ million dollar figure mentioned above.

The number of homeless veterans contacted and assisted by Units was 12,661. The total of aging veterans assisted was 58,144. Women veterans assisted, totaled 11,020. Veterans receiving indirect aid came to 73,370. Those assisted through VA&R activities and not reported elsewhere came to a total of 281,564. The grand total of veterans served is 402,076.

A total number of Units obtaining additional information on AIDS patients was 932. How our volunteers will serve these patients in the future, depends on the education of our member volunteers about this disease. With this number of Units involved, we are heading in the right direction by education, so that we will be able to serve the veteran patients afflicted with this disease.

The Home Service part of this program had 25,771 volunteers working in their homes, baking cookies, pies and cakes, cooking, knitting, crocheting, and sewing items for veteran patients. A total of 894,033 hours were given in volunteer time and a total of \$563,748.00 was expended in the Home Service program this year. A total of 50-hour Home Service pins were awarded.

The total number of volunteers receiving recognition by the 8,950 Units reporting was 1,705. Recognition ceremonies were held at various Department functions and meetings, as well as District and Unit meetings. Some held special dinners, programs and teas. The recognition came in the form of certificates, pins, bars, trophies, plaques and special recognition for "Volunteer of the Month" awards.

Units reporting volunteer recruitment programs totaled 1,560. In addition there were many Department recruitment efforts underway this year. Recruitment was done in unique ways by some Units, such as television talk shows; a shopping day "Coffee" for community women who are not members; radio ads and Post bulletin boards and newspapers. Most reports indicated that they used personal contacts and word of mouth to recruit new volunteers.

Junior Auxiliary members were an important part of our VA&R program with a total of 2,800 Junior VolunTeens helping in the VAMCs, nursing homes, and assisting home-bound veterans. The Junior members assisted in the making of tray favors, serving meals, making bibs, shopping, adopted patients as grandparents, helped with wheelchairs, gift shops, provided entertainment and even shoveled sidewalks for a veteran's family all winter. Our future Auxiliary volunteers are embodied in these VolunTeens of today.

Reading the narrative reports of the Department VA&R Chairmen, was a rewarding experience. They reported with great pride the activities and the expenditures taken from the Unit reports they received. They further reported how they promoted the program and we know, and could see, how their enthusiasm generated much support for the VA&R program in each of their Departments. Without their help this report would not be possible.

We caught the spirit, "We Are Volunteers Every Day." May God bless all the volunteers and those special members for providing the necessary funds for another successful year for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

MRS. NORMA MILLER, South Dakota, *Director*

The hospital volunteers of the American Legion Auxiliary fulfilled the theme of "We Are Volunteers Every Day" as they provided thousands of hours of caring service for the hospitalized veterans of our nation during the past year. Every record of the VAVS Advisory Committees expressed gratitude to the volunteers of the VA medical centers.

Volunteers participated in a large variety of activities and assignments, thereby assisting 172 VA medical centers and other facilities in the health care for veterans.

Halloween, Thanksgiving, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter were holiday events that some volunteers dressed in costume to brighten the occasion. Volunteers assisted with Veterans Day, Memorial Day, POW-MIA and "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" program, and Valentine's Day which became a special event with the endorsement of valentines for veterans through a well known newspaper column.

Popular entertainment provided by our volunteers are bingo, card parties, carnivals, festivals, socials with refreshments, Las Vegas nights, pizza parties, special meals, seasonal cookouts, and American Legion birthday parties and dances.

Some off-station activities were picnics in the park, fishing, boating, ball games, circus, concerts, bus trips and special meals at restaurants, Post homes and trips to shopping malls.

Our volunteers spend many hours in an effort to brighten the Christmas season for hospitalized veterans. American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shops are conducted by most Departments. Regularly scheduled and occasional volunteers alike take this opportunity to help veterans select gifts for their families, wrap, and mail them. Veterans were the recipients of Department Christmas gift distributions, monetary and otherwise, and special treats.

Junior members assisted and provided entertainment by singing carols and helping with gift distribution at Christmas time. They made many favors, sent greeting cards, and colored eggs at Easter in addition to making Easter baskets for hospitalized veterans. Volunteers also performed other assignments at VA medical centers.

Special attention such as hair styling, permanents, night-gowns, and shopping excursions were provided for women veterans, in addition to personal visits. Bud vases with a fresh or silk rose were given on Valentine's Day as were cosmetics and other comfort items. The "Salute to Women Veterans" observance was an occasion to present them with gifts and volunteers helped to make it a special day.

Volunteers gave 29,781 hours of care and concern to our veterans in Hospice Care units.

There were 852 new regularly scheduled volunteers, with some Departments not reporting.

American Legion Auxiliary volunteers gave generously of their time to provide "Service in America" by fulfilling many duties in addition to direct patient care and assistance. Our volunteers do make a difference.

FIELD SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

MRS. GLADYS BASSETT, Mississippi, *Director*

"Catch the Spirit" was the message given to prove American Legion Auxiliary members were volunteering every day in every way in service to our veterans.

Regional workshops were well attended. Departments expressed appreciation for orientation courses which were conducted, for the information received, the fruitful exchange of ideas and the opportunity to participate.

Departments had given 514 orientation courses. Recruitment was emphasized to meet the increased need for volunteers in non-VA facilities and in the community. There were 3,316 new volunteers added to assist 17,912 already available.

Seniors, Juniors, Legionnaires and non-affiliated volunteers gave 1,057,410 hours of service to 142,187 veterans. Units spent \$559,606 giving 30,829 programs, entertainment, and gifts.

Volunteers were recognized for as few as 50 hours to more than 2,000 hours for the year.

Reports were received from 6,433 Units reporting from 45 Departments. Only six Departments had 100 percent reporting.

Our Field Service volunteers were there to provide life's necessities such as food, clothing, and transportation, or life's pleasures such as comfort items, gifts and holidays cards, rides in the country, help with household chores and yard work, paying of bills, and removal of snow from sidewalks.

One Unit in Indiana entertained at parties dressed as clowns, Santa, elves and the Easter Bunny.

In Michigan, a Unit kept in contact with veterans without families, reassuring them that people do care and appreciate them.

Women veterans were given special attention. In many Departments, volunteers were members of the Past President Parley who provided parties, trips to the beauty parlor, and provided personal items.

Maryland veterans attending Alcoholics Anonymous were aided in providing jobs, given emergency assistance, free meals and rap or counseling sessions were held. Junior members provided lending libraries to shut-ins, and played pool, went fishing and hiking with veterans.

A World War I veteran who was unable to straighten bed covers or regulate the temperature in his home was given a "snuggle sack" to keep him warm, donated by the Department of Wyoming.

To ensure that the community knew that the service was performed by the American Legion Auxiliary, volunteers in a Texas Unit wore identifiable smocks.

Oregon veterans were taken on a trip to the "tropics." Decorations of exotic blooms, sea shells, and posters of far away places welcomed hula girls to a Hawaiian paradise. The veterans were treated to a luau and taught to do the hula.

Californians filmed the activities and narrative recollections of World War I veterans. The veterans are always happy to "ham" it up for their productions.

These statistics and reports do not tell all of the story of our volunteers and their dedication. Every Department has untold stories.

For the American Legion Auxiliary, service to our veterans is but a labor of love!

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE

MRS. KATHERINE MORRIS, Texas

This has been a very rewarding year for our VAVS program. The American Legion Auxiliary VA representatives and deputies have been busy assisting our veterans in the 172 VA medical centers. Our volunteers provided cheer and comfort to these men and women.

Special emphasis was given to recruiting new volunteers. Representatives recruit new volunteers by word of mouth, speaking to Auxiliary Units, Legion Posts, at District and Department meetings and to all other interested individuals, visiting and talking to schools, church groups and civic clubs. They let everyone know that volunteers are an integral part of the services and care provided for veterans.

151 Annual Joint Reviews were received and they reflected the many services that our volunteers provided hospitalized veterans through parties, activities, comfort articles, gift shops, etc. All Annual Joint Reviews were reviewed and recorded and replies were then sent to the representatives.

Chief of Voluntary Services comments, on the Annual Joint Reviews, reflected their appreciation for our volunteer program. Some remarked that they could not run the VA facilities without the assistance of volunteers and the debt of the VA to the volunteers is something that cannot adequately be repaid.

Approximately 500 quarterly minutes were received and the attendance of representatives and deputies at the VAMC VAVS quarterly meetings were recorded.

The 43rd annual meeting of the National Advisory Committee of the VAVS was held in Portland, Oregon, October 26-29, 1989. The theme for the meeting was "New Frontiers in Volunteerism." There were many informative speakers. The four workshops included: (1) Making Humor Work; (2) GRECC—The Next Step; (3) Youth Volunteers—Career Exploration; and (4) Volunteer Motivation. All four sessions were well planned, interesting and very educational.

The highlight of the meeting was the James H. Parke Luncheon where the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, in the amount of \$6,000.00, was awarded to Helen Chorjec of Fremont, California. Helen had given over 1,750 hours of volunteer service to veteran patients in occupational and corrective therapy in the spinal cord injury unit.

We are very proud of the many dedicated VAVS representatives and deputies who have worked tirelessly to assist the hospitalized veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

BETTY CALDER, *National President*

The nearly 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary are winding down the celebration of 70 years of service in America with an impressive record of achievements.

In support of all programs of the American Legion Auxiliary, Auxiliary members volunteered 10.6 million hours and contributed more than \$12.4 million to aid veterans and their families in their communities, the 172 VA medical centers and nursing/convalescent care centers throughout the nation.

National President Betty Calder chose as her special project, the renovation of the Faith of Our Fathers chapel at Freedoms Foundation. The goal was to raise \$174,000 to remodel the chapel and to establish an endowment fund for perpetual maintenance of the chapel. To date, \$45,000 has been raised toward this purpose.

Community Service

As the veteran population aged, the American Legion Auxiliary broadened its focus to meet the needs of the senior citizen. Concern has centered on neighborhood watch and crime prevention programs for the protection of senior citizens. The organization also turned its attention to homeless veterans who unfortunately represent the largest percentage of those categorized as homeless.

National disasters took their toll on America's communities and again, the Auxiliary was at the forefront assisting with first aid, blood donation and contributions of money, food and clothing to victims of the California earthquake, Hurricane Hugo, and the flood and drought plagued areas throughout the nation.

Programs and projects received \$3.5 million, and 177,000 volunteers served more than 3.6 million hours to aid the nation's communities.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

There are three areas of service within the VA&R program. The Hospital volunteer who lightens the burden of the nursing staff by helping to care for veteran patients in VA medical centers and nursing homes.

The Field Service volunteer who serves the veteran by providing transportation, running errands and helping with household chores.

The Home Service volunteer who aids the veteran from her own home by baking, cooking, sewing, knitting and crocheting for the Christmas Gift, Shops, parties and special functions hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary in VA medical centers and nursing homes.

Nearly \$3.2 million was spent and 4.4 million volunteer hours were served by 97,623 volunteers aiding 914,680 veterans in VA&R programs which also benefit women veterans and the aged.

Poppy

One of the oldest and most beneficial of Auxiliary programs, the poppy program benefits hospitalized veterans through production and distribution of the four-petaled red crepe paper flower symbolic of the blood shed by millions who fought and died to preserve American freedom and ideals.

In most cases, the poppies are made by hospitalized veterans as a means of therapy. The veterans earn so much per poppy as pocket money for use while hospitalized.

A total of 1,994 veterans earned \$535,000 making nearly 11 million poppies. There were more than 54,000 Auxiliary members who volunteered 2.2 million hours and collected \$2.3 million in contributions which will be used to aid all veterans through the VA&R program.

Children and Youth

The American Legion Auxiliary, from its beginning, has watched over the children of our veterans. Today's children need our protection more than at any other time.

The Auxiliary has allied itself once again with The American Legion in its fight to prevent teenage suicide, and drug and alcohol abuse. We joined the Legion as well in their campaign to protect children from kidnap and abuse. We also support their drive to educate children in the need for indoor and outdoor safety.

A total of 1,261,467 children were benefited by \$3.8 million contributed to organizations and programs and 1.1 million volunteer hours given by caring Auxiliary members.

Junior Activities

Within the American Legion Auxiliary there is a sub-organization of dedicated young women who are known as the Junior Auxiliary. They are members who are below the age of 18. They contribute to the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and enhance significantly the work of the overall organization.

There were 25,196 Junior members who contributed 190,382 volunteer hours to aid veterans in their communities through Auxiliary programs such as the Poppy, VA&R and Community Service.

Education

The astounding number of American adults considered illiterate has alarmed the American Legion Auxiliary. Through involvement in Project Literacy U.S. and Literacy Volunteers of America, the Auxiliary has taken steps to turn these alarming statistics around.

The Auxiliary's Education program is also responsible for nearly \$1.3 million in scholarships for qualified young people.

Girls State/Girls Nation

Perhaps one of the best known of the Auxiliary's programs, Girls State/Girls Nation offers young women, in their junior year of high school, the opportunity to witness and participated in the governmental process on the state and national level.

More than 19,000 young women participated in Girls State programs, the cost of which was more than \$2.5 million. They were supervised by 1,600 Senior Auxiliary members who served as counselors and staff members, many of whom were former Girls State citizens.

These represent but a few of the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. There is Americanism, Foreign Relations, Legislative and National Security which provide forums for members to defend patriotism, to participate in diplomacy, to voice their views on current issues and to stay informed about world political conditions. Programs such as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, the Post Presidents Parley and Leadership benefit the members themselves by aiding members in need, encouraging past leaders to remain active in the organization, and to improve the quality of future leaders.

The American Legion Auxiliary fulfills the needs of the American family. It has remained current during its 70 years of service and has grown with the needs of the nation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, DECEMBER 31, 1989, WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

GEO. S. OLIVE & Co.,
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS,
Indianapolis, IN, March 30, 1990.

Mr. MILES S. EPLING,
National Commander, The American Legion National Headquarters,
Indianapolis, IN.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1989 and 1988, and the related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and financial position for the year ended December 31, 1989. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Legion's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasona-

ble assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1989 and 1988, and the results of its operations, changes in its fund balances and financial position for the year ended December 31, 1989, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

GEO. S. OLIVE & Co.

EXHIBIT A

BALANCE SHEET

	December 31	
	1989	1988
ASSETS		
Current fund:		
Cash.....	\$234,306	\$450,222
Restricted cash.....	791,781	
Agent orange program.....	9,305	
Accounts receivable:		
Emblem Division.....	121,948	122,880
Publications Division.....	869,715	652,332
Others.....	125,400	136,176
Accrued interest on investments.....	291,313	205,455
Inventories:		
Emblem Division.....	833,897	844,733
Publications Division.....	982,449	977,958
Prepaid expenses and supplies.....	1,121,393	292,759
Prepaid pension expense.....	1,808,704	1,702,610
Deferred membership expense.....	100,876	156,558
Deferred direct membership solicitation expense.....	2,915,303	3,654,646
Deferred revenue enhancement expense.....	345,320	529,651
Postal deposits.....	50,000	50,000
Subtotal.....	10,601,710	9,775,980
Investments—note 2:		
Segregated for Designated Funds.....	9,066,104	11,507,759
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building.....	609,366	591,782
Segregated for health insurance.....	1,074,108	
Restricted for pension.....	192,253	
Other.....	17,559,051	16,785,916
Subtotal.....	28,500,882	28,885,457
Property and equipment:		
Land—Indianapolis parking lot.....	238,359	238,359
Washington, D.C. real estate:		
Land.....	80,000	80,000
Building.....	1,253,521	1,253,521
Construction in progress—building renovation.....	3,406,139	734,652
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in:		
National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana.....	2,415,656	2,360,131
Washington, D.C. building.....	532,542	590,775
Subtotal.....	7,926,217	5,257,438
Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization.....	2,829,763	2,687,583
Subtotal.....	5,096,454	2,569,855
Total assets.....	44,199,046	41,231,292

BALANCE SHEET—Continued

	December 31	
	1989	1988
Nonexpendable funds—note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Cash.....	34,855	30,695
Accrued interest on investments.....	14,851	14,655
Investments.....	735,198	696,947
Subtotal.....	784,904	742,297
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Accrued interest on investments.....	170,231	130,505
Investments.....	8,786,013	7,826,192
Subtotal.....	8,956,244	7,956,697
Total assets.....	53,940,194	49,930,286
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		
Current fund:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable.....	1,640,093	1,012,625
Agent orange program.....	9,305	
Capitalized lease obligations—note 3.....	56,937	79,218
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales.....	157,513	162,611
Funds in transit to The American Legion Life Insurance Trust.....	684,820	401,875
Deferred dues income.....	13,171,311	12,632,207
Deferred income—direct membership solicitation.....	1,453,726	1,321,815
Deferred revenue enhancement income.....	328,453	275,233
Accrued vacation benefits.....	377,900	347,529
Provision for health insurance liability.....	45,003	45,000
Other liabilities.....	135,858	83,088
Total liabilities.....	18,060,919	16,361,201
Fund balances—note 4 and 5:		
Restricted funds:		
Oratorical Contest Fund.....	211,068	154,722
Other restricted funds.....	260,023	88,952
Designated funds:		
The Restricted Fund.....	6,896,159	9,334,750
The Reserve Fund.....	2,169,945	2,173,009
Subtotal.....	9,537,195	11,751,433
Appropriated funds.....	1,541,977	1,541,977
Unappropriated.....	15,058,955	11,576,681
Total fund balances.....	26,138,127	24,870,091
Total liabilities and funds.....	44,199,046	41,231,292
Nonexpendable funds—note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Fund balance.....	784,904	742,297
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Fund balance.....	8,956,244	7,956,697
Total liabilities and funds.....	53,940,194	49,930,286

See notes to financial statements.

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES CURRENT FUND

	Year ended December 31				
	Unappropriated	1989 appropriated funds	Designated and restricted funds	Total current fund	1988 total current fund
Revenue:					
National dues.....	\$16,709,677			\$16,709,677	\$15,872,806
Sales of Emblem items.....	5,923,138			5,923,138	5,749,768
Advertising revenue.....	5,863,972			5,863,972	5,544,999
Investment income.....	1,507,910		\$787,417	2,295,327	2,184,225
Direct membership solicitation.....	1,833,863			1,833,863	1,175,215
Revenue enhancement.....	665,838			665,838	867,321
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income—note 7.....	605,959			605,959	562,025
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8.....	973,858		137,000	1,110,858	1,010,736
Other restricted income.....	209,096		275,919	485,015	199,736
Other income.....	2,346,112		158,424	2,504,536	1,688,736
Total revenue.....	36,639,423		1,358,760	37,998,183	34,855,567
EXPENSES:					
Salaries.....	6,984,310			6,984,310	6,703,741
Employee benefits—note 9.....	885,490			885,490	962,417
Cost of sales.....	4,220,974			4,220,974	4,211,955
Direct publication expenses.....	10,467,210			10,467,210	9,947,715
Executive and staff travel.....	697,714			697,714	682,529
Commission and committee.....	1,088,775			1,088,775	1,080,707
Operational.....	5,910,431			5,910,431	4,388,705
Office.....	3,197,654			3,197,654	3,024,682
Occupancy.....	832,815			832,815	863,252
Special projects and programs.....	2,100,848		343,926	2,444,774	2,118,857
Total expenses.....	36,386,221		343,926	36,730,147	33,984,560
Excess of revenue over expenses.....	253,202		1,014,834	1,268,036	871,007
Fund balances, beginning of year.....	11,576,681	\$1,541,977	11,751,433	24,870,091	23,999,084
Interfund transfers—note 4.....	3,229,072		(3,229,072)		
Fund balances, end of year.....	15,058,955	1,541,977	9,537,195	26,138,127	24,870,091

See notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1989

	Designated funds		Restricted funds		Total designated and restricted funds
	The restricted fund	The reserve fund	Oratorical contest fund	Other restricted funds	
Revenue:					
Investment income	\$790,481	(\$3,064)			\$787,417
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8			\$137,000		137,000
Restricted contributions			18,851	\$257,068	275,919
Other income				158,424	158,424
Subtotal	790,481	(3,064)	155,851	415,492	1,358,760
Expense:					
Special projects and programs			99,505	244,421	343,926

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1989—Continued

	Designated funds		Restricted funds		Total designated and restricted funds
	The restricted fund	The reserve fund	Oratorical contest fund	Other restricted funds	
Excess of revenue over expenses.....	790,481	(3,064)	56,346	171,071	1,014,834
Fund balances beginning of year.....	9,334,750	2,173,009	154,722	88,952	11,751,433
Interfund transfers—note 4.....	(3,299,072)				(3,229,072)
Fund balances, end of year.....	6,896,159	2,169,945	211,068	260,023	9,537,195

See notes to financial statements.

EXHIBIT C

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION—INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1990

	Current fund	Overseas graves decoration trust	Paid-up for life membership fees	1989 total	1988 total
Operating activities:					
Excess of revenue over expenses.....	\$1,268,036	\$42,607	\$999,547	\$2,310,190	\$1,880,670
Add:					
Depreciation charged to operations not requiring cash.....	219,825			219,825	201,857
Loss from sale of fixed assets.....	8,039			8,039	1,806
Certain working capital transactions:					
Restricted cash.....	(791,781)			(791,781)	
Accounts receivable.....	(205,675)			(205,675)	423,028
Accrued interest on investments.....	(85,858)	(196)	(39,726)	(125,780)	(41,571)
Inventories.....	6,345			6,345	(78,281)
Prepaid expenses and supplies.....	(934,728)			(934,728)	(390,808)
Deferred expenses.....	979,356			979,356	(877,419)
Postal deposits.....					2,000
Accounts payable.....	627,468			627,468	(14,607)
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales.....	(5,098)			(5,098)	2,749
Funds in transit to American Legion Life Insurance Trust.....	282,945			282,945	(391,980)
Deferred income.....	724,235			724,235	830,004
Accrued vacation.....	30,371			30,371	6,586
Provision for health insurance liability.....	3			3	16
Other liabilities.....	52,770			52,770	5,951
Cash provided by operations.....	2,176,253	42,411	959,821	3,178,485	1,560,001
Investing activities:					
Additions to property and equipment.....	(2,756,975)			(2,756,975)	(1,073,545)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets.....	2,512			2,512	1,689
Net decrease/(increase) in investments.....	384,575	(38,251)	(959,821)	(613,497)	(533,295)
	(2,369,888)	38,251	959,821	(3,367,960)	(1,605,151)
Financing activity—principal payments under capital lease obligation.....	(22,281)			(22,281)	(19,546)
Increase (decrease) in cash.....	(215,916)	4,160		(211,756)	(64,696)
Cash, beginning of the year.....	450,222	30,695		480,917	545,613
Cash, end of the year.....	234,306	34,855		269,161	480,917

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Note 1—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**General*

The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Basis of Presentation

The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1988 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund and Statement of Changes in Financial Position are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1989 amounts.

Accounts Receivable

The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories

Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expended when purchased.

Investments

Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Property and Equipment

Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the month of acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D.C., building is computed on the straight-line method using a thirty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Depreciation expense amounted to \$219,825 in 1989 and \$201,857 in 1988.

Income

Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recognized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and the American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan

The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax

The Legion is exempt from Federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Note 2—Investments (Current Fund)

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	December 31			
	1989		1988	
	Cost	Market value	Cost	Market value
Segregated for Designated Funds:				
U.S. Government obligations	\$7,816,925	\$7,918,896	\$10,799,332	\$10,605,460
Accrued interest—restricted	157,179	157,179	207,239	207,239
Money market accounts	1,091,500	1,091,500	501,000	501,000
Uninvested cash	500	500	299	299
Total	9,066,104	9,168,075	11,507,759	11,313,998
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building:				
U.S. Government obligations	609,366	606,891	591,782	570,762
Segregated for health insurance:				
Money market accounts	224,108	224,108	40,458	40,458
Certificates of deposit	850,000	850,000	650,000	650,000
Total	1,074,108	1,074,108	690,458	690,458
Restricted for pension:				
Money market accounts	192,253	192,253		
Other:				
U.S. Government obligations	13,975,851	13,913,945	12,695,458	12,371,914
Certificates of deposit	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Repurchase agreements	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000
Money market accounts	1,183,200	1,183,200	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	17,559,051	17,497,145	16,095,458	15,771,914
Total investments	28,500,882	28,538,472	28,885,457	28,347,132

Note 3—Capital and Operating Leases

The Legion has entered into a lease agreement (which is accounted for as a capital lease) for the rental of a copier. The Legion has an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the original lease term at its fair market value. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased copier. Cost and accumulated amortization of the capitalized lease was \$128,395 and \$85,597 at December 31, 1989 and \$128,395 and \$64,197 at December 31, 1988. Future minimum payments on the copier lease, together with the present value of the payments, is as follows:

Years ending December 31:

1990.....	\$31,397
1991.....	31,397
1992.....	2,618

Total future minimum payments	65,412
Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 13%)	8,475

Present value of future minimum payments	56,937
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The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately \$119,000 in 1989 and \$132,000 in 1988.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1989. The new term of the lease is currently being negotiated. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated \$340,000 in 1989 and \$320,000 in 1988. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1993.

Note 4—Restricted and Designated Funds

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income to the Restricted Fund. There was no transfer to the Restricted Fund for 1989 due to a net loss. The Restricted Fund transferred \$3,229,072 to unappropriated funds during 1989 for the Washington, D.C. building renovation project.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

- (a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or
- (b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

Note 5—Appropriated Funds and Interfund Transfers

There were no interfund transfers during 1989 between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds at December 31, 1989 and 1988 were as follows:

Computer Reserve	\$500,000
Real Estate Reserve	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	100,000
Totals.....	1,541,977

Note 6—Nonexpendable Funds

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund

are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1989 are as follows:

	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenue:		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected		\$867,819
Investment income	\$60,409	891,377
Total	60,409	1,759,196
Expenses:		
Membership dues withdrawn		591,557
Decoration of graves	17,802	
Administrative expense		136,791
Trust fees		31,301
Total	17,802	759,649
Excess of revenue over expenses	42,607	999,547
Fund balances, January 1, 1989	742,297	7,956,697
Fund balances, December 31, 1989	784,904	8,956,244

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	December 31			
	1989		1988	
	Cost	Market value	Cost	Market value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:				
U.S. Government obligations	\$735,198	\$741,452	\$696,947	\$680,806
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:				
U.S. Government obligations	6,789,271	6,863,917	5,591,575	5,546,138
Money market accounts	323,835	323,835	815,303	815,303
Common stocks	1,672,907	2,344,801	1,419,314	1,672,623
Total investments	8,786,013	9,532,553	7,826,192	8,034,064

Note 7—American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of \$2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of \$1,967,839 at December 31, 1989, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to \$605,959 in 1989 and \$562,025 in 1988.

Note 8—Life Insurance Trust

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurers, which aggregate to \$5,536,131 as of December 31, 1989, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.

(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.

(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.

(d) To make refunds to the participants.

(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's national Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1989, \$887,708 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1990.

Note 9—Pension Plan

The funded status of the pension plan at the end of the year was:

	December 31	
	1989	1988
Actuarial present value of plan benefits:		
Vested.....	(\$12,962,220)	(\$11,223,181)
Nonvested.....	(521,323)	(677,251)
Accumulated benefit obligation.....	(13,483,543)	(11,900,432)
Projected benefit obligation.....	(14,693,658)	(13,878,002)
Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stocks, bonds, and U.S. securities.....	20,468,532	19,483,314
Excess of plan assets over projected benefit obligation.....	5,774,874	5,604,312
Unrecognized net gain.....	(1,559,805)	(1,286,842)
Prior service cost not yet recognized in net periodic pension cost.....	1,023,022	1,106,390
Unrecognized net asset at end of year.....	(3,429,387)	(3,721,250)
Prepaid pension expense.....	1,808,704	1,707,610

Net pension expense (credit) included the following components:

	December 31	
	1989	1988
Service cost—benefits earned during the year.....	\$514,230	\$541,599
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation.....	1,014,328	982,936
Actual return on assets.....	(1,849,645)	(1,403,302)
Net amortization and deferral.....	214,993	(184,582)
Net pension expense (credit).....	(106,094)	(63,349)

The discount rate and rate of increase future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7.25 and 3%, respectively, for 1989 and 7.75 and 6%, respectively, for 1988. The assumed rate of return on plan assets for 1989 and 1988 was 8 and 7.5%, respectively.

Note 10—Litigation

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advo-

cate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

GEO. S. OLIVE & Co.,
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS,
Indianapolis, IN, March 30, 1990.

Mr. MILES S. EPLING,
National Commander, The American Legion National Headquarters,
Indianapolis, IN.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

We have audited and reported separately on the basic financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1989 and 1988 and for the year ended December 31, 1989.

Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The reconciliation of audited financial statements to internal financial statements is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

GEO. S. OLIVE & Co.

SCHEDULE 1.—Reconciliation of audited financial statements to internal financial statements year ended December 31, 1989

	Total Current Fund
Excess of revenue over expenses—internal financial statements.....	\$253,202
Excess of revenue over expenses (unappropriated)—audited financial statements—exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 4)	253,202
Add:	
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restrict- ed funds not included in internal financials—principally The Re- stricted Fund—exhibit B, sheet 2 (page 7)	1,014,834
Excess of revenue over expenses—audited financial statements—ex- hibit B, sheet 1 (page 5)	1,268,036